



The Fourth Annual

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

presents

The Three R's:

Readin', 'Ritin', and the River



Saluting the influence of Ol' Man River
on the literature, history, and culture of
Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 1-6, 1993

SPONSORED BY
COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AND
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S
NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND
THE NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY

A Note About Nametags and Tickets

Nametags with blue ribbons will admit lecturers and other full-package participants to all NLC events, including meals. Nametags without ribbons admit participants to lectures and movies, by the day or for all four days. These are color-coded as follows: ivory - all four days; white - Wednesday only; gray - Thursday only; gold - Friday only; blue - Saturday only. Participants without nametags must present tickets for admission to individual events.

NOTE: Everyone attending a reception on June 2, June 3, and/or June 5 must present a reception ticket. Also, those attending the Magnolia Hall luncheon on June 4 must present a luncheon ticket indicating Group A or Group B.

Bookshop

A custom bookshop in the auditorium will be open Wednesday-Saturday, June 2-5, featuring books, articles, and souvenirs relating to this year's theme.

Message Center

A bulletin board is located in the auditorium lobby for messages. Please feel free to use it.

Telephone

A pay telephone is located in the east corridor of the auditorium and at the corner of Jefferson and Canal Streets on the Natchez Post Office grounds.

Location of Events

All events will take place in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

Acknowledgments

This event is financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and numerous other supporters. (Please see page 30.)



Table of Contents

Map Showing Location of Events	2-3
Free Events	4
Introductions	5
Program Agenda	6-7
Lecturers, Lecture Chairmen, and Events	8-29
Acknowledgments	30

1993 part 1
page 11



Travis

1993 part 1
page 12



1993 part 1
page 13



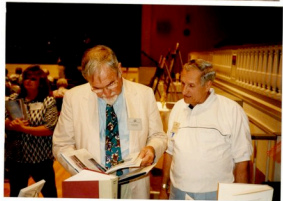
1993 part 1
page 14



1993 part 1
page 15

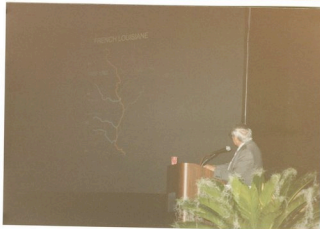


1993 part 1
page 16





1993 part 1
page 17





1993 part 1
page 13



1993 part 1
page 19



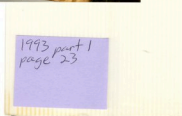
1993 part 1
page 20



1993 part 1
page 21



1993 part 1
page 22





1993 part 1
page 24



1993 part 1
page 25



1993 part 1
page 26





1993 part 1
page 27



1993 part 1
page 28



1993 part 1
page 29



1993 part 1
page 30



1993 part 1
page 31



1993 part 1
page 32



1993 part 1
page 33



1993 part 1
page 34



1993 part 1
page 35



1993 part 1
page 36



1993 part 1
page 37



1993 part 1
page 38



1993 part 1
page 39

The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River

Presentations are in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 207 Jefferson Street, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, June 2, 1993

- 1:00 p.m.** Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Billy B. Thomas, President
Carroll-Landis Community College
- 1:15 p.m.** "The Heritage of the Mississippi River"
Mr. John Hootchery
Leader, Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Denver, Colorado
- 2:15 p.m.** Refreshments
- 2:45 p.m.** "Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763"
Dr. William S. Coker
Professor of History Emeritus
University of West Florida
Pensacola, Florida
- 5:00 p.m.** "Rivers to the River"
Premiere of a Mississippi Educational Television Documentary with Comments by
Mr. A. J. Jagger, Director
Mississippi Educational Television
Jackson, Mississippi
- 6:45 p.m.** Gala Reception Honoring ITV Dignitaries at Historic Stanton Hall (\$5 Ticket Needed)
- 8:00 p.m.** Dinner, Chamber House Restaurant at Stanton Hall
Concert by the Holy Family Catholic Church
Gospel Choir (\$15 Ticket Needed)

Thursday, June 3, 1993

- 9:30 a.m.** "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi"
Dr. Charles Lowery
Chairman, Department of History
Mississippi State University
Starkville, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Amen, But and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River"
Dr. Robert V. Remini
Professor of History and
Research Professor of Humanities
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

- 11:15 a.m.** "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez"
Dr. David G. Sanning, Professor of History
The University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi
- 12:30 p.m.** Luncheon, The Natchezicola Hotel
with Musical Selections by "The Black Swan"
(\$10 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The Mississippi River and the Civil War"
Mr. Terrence Winschel, Historian
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Vicksburg National Military Park
Vicksburg, Mississippi
- 3:00 p.m.** Refreshments
- 3:15 p.m.** "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Mark Twain
With Discussion Led by
Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp
Professor of American Film Studies
Centre College
Danville, Kentucky
- 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Reception, the Ramada Hilltop Inn
Overlooking the Mississippi River
Honoring Outstanding Humanities Scholars from
Mississippi's Public Two-Year Colleges
With Music by the River Road Revue
(\$5 Ticket Needed)

Friday, June 4, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats, and Steam"
Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, Author and Historian
Natchez, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Was Huck Black?" Mark Twain and African-American Voices"
Dr. Shirley Fisher Prokris, Visiting Fellow
Cambridge University
Cambridge, England
- 11:00 a.m.** "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Literature"
Mr. Hilary Jaeger Knight III
Associate Professor of English
Tusculoo College
Tusculoo, Mississippi
- 12:15 p.m.** Victorian Luncheon, Historic Magnolia Hall
(\$10 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The Rivers in My Life"
Mr. Willie Morris, Author
Jackson, Mississippi

- 3:00 p.m.** Popcorn and Soft Drinks
- 3:15 p.m.** "Good Ol' Boy," A Movie Filmed in Natchez
Based on Mr. Willie Morris' Book
with Discussion Led by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 7:00-8:00 p.m.** "The Music of the Mississippi"
A Concert of River-Inspired Selections by
the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra
(\$5 Ticket Needed)

Saturday, June 5, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart"
Dr. Peggy W. Prushkin, Professor of English
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 9:15 a.m.** "Port Clubhouse: A Reading with Commentary"
Mrs. Elizabeth Spencer, Writer-in-Residence
The University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill
- 10:00 a.m.** Booksigning Party Honoring All Speakers
- 10:45 a.m.** "Of Men and Rivers"
Mr. Ernest Gaines, Writer-in-Residence
The University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, Louisiana
- 1:00 p.m.** "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Mr. Ernest Gaines
with Discussion Led by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 4:00-6:00 p.m.** Tour of Historic Houses near the River:
Rouselle, The Paragonage, The William Johnson House,
and Exato-Bonata, with Refreshments
(\$15 Ticket Needed)
- 7:00 p.m.** "Storytelling Along the River Road"
Dr. William Ferris, Director
The Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi, Oxford
and
Mr. Jerry Clower, Harmonist and Author
Liberty, Mississippi
(\$7.50 Ticket Needed)
- 8:15 p.m.** "Open House on the River Road"
Reception at the Historic Manatee Chocow
Honoring All Speakers
(\$2.50 Ticket Needed)

Sunday, June 6, 1993

- 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.** Writing Workshops with Luncheon,
Sponsored by Mississippi Writers Association,
The Best Western River Park Hotel
Featuring Mr. Will D. Campbell, Mrs. Rebecca
Hood-Adams, Dr. Anne Louden, Ms. JoAnne
Pichard, and others
(\$15 Ticket Needed)

Here's how to buy tickets for NLC June 2 - 6

Because the lecture program of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration is financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities and other generous contributors, all lectures are open at a space-available basis for \$5 per day or \$20 for all four days, says NLC co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

"Other related weekend events, such as the military reenactment, the walking tours and the exhibits, are free," she said. "Still other events are at low cost, from \$5 to \$15."

The only parts of the Celebration with limited seating are the three meals, which have space for about 150 people each, Smith said.

"Because the lectures will be at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, nothing else is likely to be sold out -- unless it's the Jerry Clower event on June 5."

"Even so, it would be wise to go ahead and call the Natchez Box Office for tickets," she said. "We have large groups of people reserving seats every day."

ORDER FORM Please complete this form, clip and mail it with payment to Natchez Box Office, P. O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39121-1264.

I. LECTURES AND GENERAL ADMISSION EVENTS

- Package includes events A,B,C,D. **\$520.00**
Or select specific events below:
A. June 2 lectures and ITV premiere **\$95.00**
B. June 3 lectures and movie **\$95.00**
C. June 4 lectures and movie **\$95.00**
D. June 5 lectures, booksigning, movie **\$95.00**

II. RECEPTIONS, CONCERT, TOUR, PRESENTATIONS

- Package includes events E,F,G,H,I,J,K. **\$540.00**
Or select specific events below:
E. June 2 reception **\$55.00**
F. June 3 reception **\$55.00**
G. June 4 concert **\$55.00**
H. June 5 four-hour tour **\$95.00**
I. June 5 formal concert presentations **\$55.00**
J. June 5 reception **\$52.00**

III. LIMITED ADMISSION EVENTS

- Package includes events K,L,M,N. **\$98.00**
Or select specific events below:
K. June 2 dinner **\$95.00**
L. June 3 luncheon **\$95.00**
M. June 4 luncheon **\$95.00**
N. June 6 writing workshops/luncheon **\$95.00**

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \$

Please check payment method.

- ☐ Personal check (Make payable to NATCHEZ BOX OFFICE.)
☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa (For credit card purchases, complete form below.)

Credit card account number

Expiration date

Today's date

Name (as you wish it to appear on name tag)

Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

Please send this form with payment to:
Natchez Box Office
P.O. Box 1264
Natchez, MS 39121-1264
For information, please call Natchez Box Office at (601) 445-6933 or 1-800-863-1239.



N-SIGHTS

Copiah-Lincoln Community College - Natchez Campus, Natchez, MS 39120

e XX, No. 4

Beltline Site & Washington Site

Tuesday, May 4, 1993

Huck Finn, Jerry Clower to meet in Natchez at NLC

by Cissy Warner

(See related stories, p.5 and p.8.)

Yes, it could happen only at the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration.

Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, a Cambridge University authority on Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, and Mississippi's own yarn spinner, Jerry Clower, will meet in Natchez at the fourth annual NLC.

Set for June 2-6, the 1993 theme is "The Three R's: Readin', Rotin', and the River."

Sixteen noted authors, scholars and entertainers will be featured. A concert by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra, the premiere of Mississippi ETV's "Return to the River" documentary, a study of the Aaron Burr conspiracy, a house tour, a living history re-enactment, and an art contest for students are a few of the highlights of this year's program.

The award-winning conference, held annually in Natchez in early June, is co-sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Natchez National Historical Park

and the Natchez Trace Parkway.

It is partially funded by the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Humanities Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities and numerous other government and business groups.

Gerald Gaumer of the Natchez National Historical Park is co-chairman of the celebration with Becky Junkin Nevill and Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin.

"This year's conference is an educational extravaganza with something for everyone," Nevill

said. "Tickets are very affordable, beginning at \$3 a day for lectures."

Fishkin, professor of American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, is author of a brand new book called *Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices*. She is currently Visiting Fellow at Cambridge and has won wide acclaim for her scholarship on Mark Twain.

Clower, longtime award winner as a major comedian, is also an author. His *Stories from Home*, published in 1992, was nominated for best non-fiction book in Mississippi last year.



OL' MAN RIVER: Providing the theme of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration is the mighty Mississippi, seen here at Natchez-Vidalia.

1993 part 1
page 41

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

CO-LIN N-SIGHTS TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1993 5

1993 NLC: Star-studded lineup includes homefolks

By Cindy Warner

The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, set for June 2-6, features a star-studded lineup of extraordinary people, including four with a Southwest Mississippi connection, says co-chairman Becky Jenkin Nevill of Co-Lin.

"These homefolks are Jerry Clower, Hillery Knight, Tom Gandy and Charles Vahkamp," she said.

Jerry Clower of Amite County, renowned for telling colorful stories of his youth, recently moved back home to Liberty.

"He first began telling stories to help sell fertilizer for Mississippi Chemical Corporation in Yazoo City," Nevill said. "A resulting best-selling album sent him on his way."

In addition to being a Grand Ole Opry Star, Clower has written four best-selling books, won comedian-of-the-year awards from numerous organizations, has several gold records and has been named Country Comic of the Year for nine years.

Clower attended Southwest Mississippi Junior College, Summit, before attending Mississippi State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree.

Clower's performance at the Natchez Literary Celebration is Saturday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at

the Natchez Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$7.50, with a reception afterward at Chocoma, which costs \$2.50.

Hillery Knight, a 1962 graduate of Radie V. Thompson High School in Natchez, is a published poet who is assistant professor of English at Tougaloo College in Tougaloo.

"Mr. Knight's mother, Ordemese Knight, served as principal for many years of Susie B. West School in Natchez," Nevill said.

Knight holds a bachelor's degree from Tougaloo College, a master's degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and has studied at Harvard University.

He is a published poet and story writer who has a forthcoming book about his three-year association with Mohamed Ali.

"As part of the NLC, Knight will read from his poetry that was inspired by the river. His reading is scheduled for Friday, June 4, at 11 a.m.," Nevill said.

Also on this year's agenda is Dr. Thomas H. Gandy of Natchez.

Gandy, a retired Natchez



Vahkamp



Knight



Gandy



Clower

physician, is a history lover who owns the Earl Norman Collection of Natchez photographs.

"With his wife, Joan, he is author of three books on Natchez history, including *The Mississippi Steamboat Era*," Nevill said.

Gandy's topic for the NLC is "The Mississippi River: Mud, Water, Boats, and Steam." The lecture is scheduled for June 4 at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Charles Vahkamp, professor of American film as well as French at Centre College, Danville, Ky., is married to the former Sarah McLaurin of Natchez. "He is the son-in-law of former Superintendent of Adams County schools, Gilmer McLaurin," Nevill said.

Vahkamp is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where he earned bachelor, master and doctoral degrees. "He has also studied extensively in France," Nevill said.

Vahkamp will lead discussions June 3, 4 and 5 of three

films which relate to lecture topics.

Joining these speakers will be presenters from across the United States and Europe.

They are:

- John Hoesterer, Denver, chairman of the National Park Service's Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project, *The Heritage of the Mississippi River*.

- Dr. William S. Coker, University of West Florida, *Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River*.

- A. J. Jaeger, Director, Mississippi Educational Television, *Return to the River*, a documentary.

- Dr. Charles Lowery, Mississippi State University, *Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales on the Mississippi*.

- Dr. Robert V. Remini, The University of Illinois, *Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River*.

- Dr. David G. Sansing, The University of Mississippi, *From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez*.

- Terrence Winchel, National Park Service historian of Vicksburg, *Unwaxed to the Sea: The Mississippi River During the Civil War*.

- Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, *Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices*.

- The author Willie Morris of Jackson, *Rivers in My Life*.

- Dr. Peggy W. Frenshaw, Louisiana State University, *Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart*.

- The author Elizabeth Spencer, The University of North Carolina, *Port Claiborne near the River*.

- The author Ernest Gaines, of San Francisco and The University of Southwestern Louisiana, *Of Men and Rivers*.

- Dr. William Ferris, The University of Mississippi, *Storytelling Along the River Road*.

Cost of lectures is \$20 for four days or \$5 per day, with meals and special events optional. The entire package for all lectures, meals, tours and special events is \$50.

Tickets and more information are available by calling Natchez Box Office at (601) 445-0253 or 1-800-862-3259 or by writing P. O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39121. (To order tickets, see p. 8.)

1993 part 1
page 42

Tours, re-enactment, films and more added to NLC

Walking tours, the re-enactment of the Federal occupation of Natchez, river music, a film festival, an art exhibit and other attractions are being added to this year's Natchez Literary Celebration, according to co-chairman Gerry Gaumer, chief of interpretation and visitor services for the Natchez National Historical Park.

"One new attraction is a series of free, guided walking tours of the riverfront by National Park Service experts," Gaumer said. "These will take place at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 2-4."

Also new is the re-enactment of the Federal military occupation of Natchez, 1863-65, on the grounds of the mansion Malrose.

"Re-enactors will dress and act according to that time period," Gaumer said. "They will discuss the damage and destruction of the occupation."

Also new will be the illustration of a lecture by the actual singing of songs related to the lecture topic, Gaumer said.

"Dr. Ellistine Holly, professor

of music at Jackson State University, will sing during Dr. David Sansing's lecture on the Black Swan, Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield of Natchez," he said.

"These selections were sung by the Black Swan for Queen Victoria in the 1850s. We're following a program used at the royal concert."

Also brand-new is "Return to the River," a 90-minute documentary by Mississippi Educational Television, which will premiere in Natchez on Wednesday, June 2, at 5 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

Also new this year is a mini film festival with discussions led by Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, a film expert of Centre College, Danville, Ky.

"Films to be shown are 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,' 'Good Old Boy' and 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman,'" Gaumer said. "These films relate directly to lecture topics."

Also new will be a one-hour concert called "The Music of the Mississippi" by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra, using selections relating to the river, Gaumer said. "This con-



Elizabeth T. Greenfield

cert will be held Friday, June 4, at 7 p.m."

Something else new this year is the attendance of a selected group of outstanding students and faculty members in the humanities divisions at Mississippi's public community colleges.

"These people will be honored at a reception at the Ramada

lun terrace on Thursday, June 3, from 8:30-8:00 p.m.," Gaumer said.

Also added is a display of winners of a student art contest called "The Mighty Mississippi," Gaumer said. "Prudence McChes, an art instructor at Co-Lin, is chairman of this contest. Each category relates to books or subjects of lectures during the Celebration."

The contest is co-sponsored by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, the Armstrong Library and the Celebration, Gaumer said. "The exhibit will hang at the Armstrong Library."

Something many people have been waiting for will also take place during the NLC, Gaumer said.

"We're honored by Mr. and Mrs. Don DuPrest of Columbia, who are allowing a gala re-opening of their shopplace, Choctaw, for our grand finale on Saturday night, June 5," he said.

"This mansion has been spectacularly and painstakingly restored. It will be a magnificent ending to a magnificent week."

Two workshops added

A pre-conference workshop and a post-conference workshop have been added to the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, said NLC co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

"Natchez's Spanish records will return home June 1, when Dr. Douglas Inglis of Seville, Spain, leads a free, all-day workshop at the Armstrong Library."

This workshop is sponsored by the library, the Natchez Historical Society and the NLC, Smith said. Topics will be "Spanish Imperial Organization and Structure," "Spanish Natchez Documentation" and "The Colonial Natchez Database."

For those who want to sit and learn at the feet of the masters, an all-day writing workshop will follow the Celebration on June 4, at the Best Western River Park Hotel.

"The Mississippi Writers Association will sponsor sessions by noted writers," Smith said. "These include Will D. Campbell, whose newest book is 'Presidents; senior editor JoAnne Prechard of the University Press of Mississippi; Dr. Peggy W. Frenchow of Louisiana State University; Millsaps College writing instructor Hebrew Hood-Adams of Jackson and several others."

Choctaw



Choctaw is one of the South's most impressive antebellum mansions.

The residence was built in 1836 for Joseph Neibert and his family. James Hardie, a Scottish immigrant and local architect, is believed to be its builder. Joseph Neibert died several months after he was financially devastated by The Panic of 1837. In 1844, Neibert's widow sold the property to Alvarez Fisk, a local philanthropist who was instrumental in establishing the Natchez public school system.

The mansion was purchased in 1855 by attorney George Malin Davis, who developed the terraced gardens. Choctaw remained in the Davis family until 1920, and from 1909 to 1915 it was known as Stanton College, a school for young ladies (begun in 1894 at Stanton Hall). In 1920 it was sold to The Natchez Manufacturing Company by Davis' grandson, George Malin Davis Kelly, who owned and lived at Melrose. In 1937 the City of Natchez purchased the property as the site for a city auditorium. During the city's ownership, Choctaw was occupied for many years by the American Legion and later by the Natchez Art Association.

The grandeur and splendor of Choctaw were always apparent, even through decades of severe deterioration in the early part of the 20th century and damage by fire in 1978.

When Mr. and Mrs. Don DePriest purchased Choctaw in 1989, they faced the monumental task of undertaking its restoration. Repairs included structural damage caused by a leaking internal gutter system. Also, earlier problems created by a 1940's restoration project had to be handled.

Through the DePriests' restoration efforts and the watchful eye of their restoration specialist, James O. Moore, Choctaw once again stands as testimony to the opulence of Natchez' antebellum era and to the artistry of the craftsmen who built it.

Choctaw is probably Natchez's first "transition" house, students of historical architecture agree, in that it uses both the Greek Revival style and the earlier Federal style found at Rosalie. The doorway and interior millwork are Greek, while the Ionic columns of the portico are Roman. The tympanic window in the gable of the portico takes its oval shape from the Federal style. The mansion is constructed of stately red brick with a stuccoed facade and graceful columns.

On the interior, folding doors separate the short front hall from the two front rooms. In the wider back hall, the stairs follow a curved wall to form a graceful oval as they rise to the second floor and then to the finished attic room. The house also contains a full basement.

A replica of the original palisaded fence curves in a delicate pattern away from the house. Restoration of the formal gardens is under way, based on plans from an 1864 "Map of the Defenses of Natchez."

Painstaking research, effort, and patience have gone into this meticulous restoration project, which has received the Mississippi Historical Society's Award of Merit for restoration and the Historic Natchez Foundation's George M. D. and Ethel Moore Kelly Restoration Award. Presently a search is under way for rare interior furnishings and fixtures which are appropriate to the mansion.



1993 part 1
page 44



The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration

"The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River"

presents

MUSIC OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND OTHER RIVERS

A POPS CONCERT

BY THE MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Robert M. McNally, Conductor

The Natchez Municipal Auditorium

Natchez, Mississippi

7 p.m., Friday, June 4, 1993

PROGRAM

Selections from <i>Showboat</i>	Jerome Kern
<i>Out of Africa</i> Love Theme	John Barry, arr. James Sclater
"New York/Chicago"	arr. James Sclater
"Moon River"	Henry Mancini
"Under the Sea"	arr. James Sclater
"The Watermill"	Binge
"Shenandoah"	arr. Harris
"Mardi Gras" from <i>Mississippi Suite</i>	Ferde Grote
"New Orleans Medley"	anonymous
"Stars and Stripes"	John Philip Sousa

This concert is financially assisted by the Mississippi Arts Commission.

1993 part 1
page 45

ADVISORY MEMBERS

The following people have helped make possible "Storytelling Along the River Road" and other programs of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration.

Natchez Literary Celebration

Mississippi State University

Mississippi State University

Mississippi State University

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CLASSIC COKE GREET'S CLASSIC CLOWER!

The Natchez Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.
is pleased to help present
the numerous outstanding events of

THE 1993 NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

and in particular

STORYTELLING ALONG THE RIVER ROAD

featuring

DR. WILLIAM FERRIS

and

MR. JERRY CLOWER



DEPOSIT GUARANTY NATIONAL BANK

take great pleasure

in helping present

THE 1993 NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

and, in particular,

MR. JERRY CLOWER OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI

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McComb, Mississippi

STORYTELLING ALONG THE RIVER ROAD

Featuring: The Honorable William Winter, President, Board of Trustees
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson

Southern Folklore

Dr. William Ferris, Director
The Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi, Oxford

Dr. Ferris received a B.A. from Davidson College, an M.A. from Northwestern University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He also studied at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. Professor of anthropology at The University of Mississippi, he has also taught at Stanford and Yale. He is author and/or editor of *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, *Social Culture*, *Blues from the Delta*, *Images of the South: Views with Robert Rely and Walker Evans*, and *Mississippi Black Folklore: A Research Bibliography and Bibliography*. Films he has produced are *Give My Poor Heart Ease: Mississippi Delta Bluesmen*, *Two Black Churches*, *Four Women Artists*, and *Painting in the South: Artists and Regional Heritage*.

Stories from Home

Mr. Jerry Clower, Musician, Folklorist, and Author
Liberty, Mississippi

Mr. Clower calls himself a subman, and indeed he is. He tells the really good life - laughter, love and music in Amite County, Mississippi. Mr. Clower tells stories of life in his home state that are so popular he is one of the leading album sellers for MCA records and has been named Country Music of the Year the nine consecutive years. Co-host of the nationally syndicated TV show, "Nashville on the Road," he currently appears in radio and TV commercials.

After attending Southwest Mississippi Junior College, he received a degree from Mississippi State University and went to work as Director of Field Services with Mississippi Chemical Corporation in Vicksburg. After a successful career, he and his wife, Roseanna, recently moved back to Southwest Mississippi, where they now reside.

Books by Mr. Clower include *Ain't Got Goud!*, *Let the Hammer Down*, *Life in Mississippi*, and *Stories from Home*, which was nominated for Best Nonfiction Book in Mississippi in 1990. Discography includes *Shrimper*, *Harmonica*, *The Music of the Mighty Mississippi*, *Classic Clower*, *Pop Gun*, *Remedy Truck*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, and *Just Raving*.

(Books and tapes by Dr. Ferris and Mr. Clower are for sale in the exhibition lobby. The authors will be available for autographs at Clower's following this program.)

1993 part 1
page 46

Natchez's Spanish Records Return Home

The Natchez Historical Society
George W. Armstrong Public Library
Cotiah-Lincoln Community College
National Park Service's

Natchez Trace Parkway and Natchez National Historical Park
in Cooperation with the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration

present

Free Workshop

(ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIRED)

"THE COLONIAL NACHEZ DATABASE PROJECT"

Tuesday, June 1, 1993

9 a.m. - 6 p.m., George W. Armstrong Public Library
220 South Commerce Street, Natchez

During the period Natchez was under Spain's rule, 1779 - 1798, extensive records were kept by local Spanish officials. These records, which reveal much about early Natchez, eventually ended up in the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain.

Dr. G. Douglas Inglis, a history major and computer expert who lives in Seville, has spent several years researching the records, which are contained in a vast number of uncataloged and unreferenced volumes.

Now he has accessed the information he has compiled onto a computer program. Dr. Inglis is bringing the program to Natchez and will install it in the computer system at the George W. Armstrong Public Library. Dr. Inglis plans to continue his research in Seville, compiling more of the Spanish Natchez records and making them available to Natchez.

Workshop Schedule

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.: | Spanish Imperial organization and structure
Spanish Natchez documentation
The Colonial Natchez Database: What it is and what it can do for you |
| 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.: | Free time for lunch |
| 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.: | Using The Colonial Natchez Database
Hands-on experience
Present coverage and future growth |

* * *

Dr. G. Douglas Inglis, a lecturer at the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, is Director of the Department of Systems Engineering - Southern Region, Systems Studies/ Systems of Information, Seville, Spain.

A history major, Dr. Inglis received his B.A. from William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and his M.A. from The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg. Dr. Inglis' master's thesis was "Anthony Hutchinson: Early Natchez Planter." He earned his Ph.D. from Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, in Latin American history with minors in early modern Europe and colonial United States history. His summers are often spent as a visiting lecturer at colleges and universities in the United States and in Spain.



Dr. G. Douglas Inglis

For Reservations

Contact Ms. Donna Janky, Armstrong Public Library
601-445-8862

COTIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
823 HIGHWAY 61 NORTH
NATCHEZ, MS 39120



The Natchez Literary Celebration

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 15
Natchez, MS 39120

*Ms. Janky
July 17
J.D.
Lemuel + Joan
Mentley -
2pm Library
Colonial Natchez
Magsnate
736-1763
736-4328*

1993 part 1
page 47

The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River

Presentations are in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium,
207 Jefferson Street, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, June 2, 1993

1:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Billy B. Thomas, President
Capitol-Landmark Community College

1:15 p.m. "The Heritage of the Mississippi River"

Ms. Julia Henderson
Landmark, Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southeast Service Center
Gainesville, Colorado

2:15 p.m. Refreshments

2:45 p.m. "Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1594-1763"

Dr. William S. Clark
Professor of History Emeritus
University of West Florida
Pensacola, Florida

3:00 p.m. "Return to the River"

Premiere of a Mississippi Educational Television
Documentary with Comments by
Ms. A. L. Jagers, Director
Mississippi Educational Television
Jackson, Mississippi

6:45 p.m. Gals Reception Housing: RTV Digitalism at Historic Boone Hall (25 Ticket Needed)

8:00 p.m. Dinner, Carriage House Restaurant in Stanton Hall with Concert by the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir (211 Ticket Needed)

Thursday, June 3, 1993

8:30 a.m. "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi"

Dr. Charles Lowrey
Chairman, Department of History
Mississippi State University
Savville, Mississippi

9:30 a.m. Refreshments

10:00 a.m. "Adam Bell and the Goat Conspiracy on the Mississippi River"

Dr. Robert V. Remini
Professor of History and
Research Professor of Humanities
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

11:15 a.m. "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez"

Dr. David G. Searing, Professor of History
The University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi

12:30 p.m. Luncheon, The Natchez State Hotel with Musical Introduction by "The Black Swan"

(140 Ticket Needed)

2:00 p.m. "The Mississippi River and the Civil War"

Mr. Terrence Winfield, Historian
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Vicksburg National Military Park
Vicksburg, Mississippi

3:00 p.m. Refreshments

3:15 p.m. "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn": A Movie Based on the Novel by Mark Twain

With Discussion Led by
Dr. Charles G. Vellkamp
Professor of American Film Studies
Oscar College
Danville, Kentucky

6:30-8:00 p.m. Reception, the Ramada Hilton Inn Overlooking the Mississippi River

Honoring Outstanding Humanities Scholars from
Mississippi's Public Two-Year Colleges
With Music by the River Road Band
(145 Ticket Needed)

Friday, June 4, 1993

8:30 a.m. "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mail, News, Buses, and Steam"

Dr. Thomas R. Gandy, Author and Historian
Natchez, Mississippi

9:30 a.m. Refreshments

10:00 a.m. "Was Mark Twain? Mark Twain and African-American Voices"

Dr. Marley Fisher Ficklin, Visiting Fellow
Cambridge University
Cambridge, England

11:00 a.m. "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation"

Ms. Willey Joyce Knight, III
Assistant Professor of English
Temple College
Temple, Mississippi

12:15 p.m. Victorian Luncheon, Historic Magnolia Hall (200 Ticket Needed)

2:00 p.m. "The River in My Life"

Mr. Willie Morris, Author
Jackson, Mississippi

3:00 p.m. Popcorn and Soft Drinks

3:15 p.m. "Good Ol' Boy," A Movie Filmed in Natchez Based on Mr. Willie Morris' Book with Discussion Led by Dr. Vellkamp

7:00-8:00 p.m. "The Music of the Mississippi" A Concert of Songs Inspired by the Mississippi Riverway Page Chanters (20 Ticket Needed)

Saturday, June 5, 1993

8:30 a.m. "Hatchet Spencer's Landscapes of the First"

Dr. Peggy W. Pendrecht, Professor of English
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

9:15 a.m. "Port Chalmers: A Reading with Commentary"

Ms. Elizabeth Spencer, Writer-in-Residence
The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

10:00 a.m. Receptions Party: Receptions All Speakers

10:45 a.m. "Of Men and Rivers"

Ms. Ernest Gaines, Writer-in-Residence
The University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, Louisiana

1:00 p.m. "The Autobiography of Miss Jean Frazier"

A Movie Based on the Novel by Mr. Ernest Gaines
with Discussion Led by Dr. Vellkamp

6:00-8:00 p.m. Tour of Historic Houses near the River: Rosedale, The Portico, The William Adams House, and Evans-Bonham, with Refreshments (212 Ticket Needed)

7:00 p.m. "Storytelling Along the River Road"

Dr. William Ferris, Director
The Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi, Oxford
and

Mr. Jerry Clower, Humorous and Author
Liberty, Mississippi

8:15 p.m. "Open House on the River Road"

Reception at the Historic Mansion-Occupied
Honoring 63 Speakers
(120 Ticket Needed)

Sunday, June 6, 1993

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Writing Workshops with Luncheon, Sponsored by Mississippi Writers Association, The Best Western River Park Hotel

Featuring Ms. WRD Campbell, Dr. Arthur
Geyer, Ms. Barbara Hood-Johnson,
Dr. Anne Lincoln, and Ms. Jackson Pritchard
(115 Ticket Needed)

Ticket Reservation Form

Please indicate the events and number of tickets you desire:

	Number of Tickets	Total Cost
--	----------------------	---------------

I. LECTURES AND GENERAL ADMISSION EVENTS

Package includes events A, B, C, D, E
or

Select specific events below:		
A. June 2 lectures and RTV premiere	_____	\$21.00
B. June 3 lectures and movie	_____	\$21.00
C. June 4 lectures and movie	_____	\$21.00
D. June 5 lectures, bookings, movie	_____	\$21.00
E. June 6 lectures, bookings, movie	_____	\$21.00

II. RECEPTIONS, CONCERTS, TOURS, PRESENTATIONS

Package includes events F, G, H, I, J
or

Select specific events below:		
F. June 2 reception	_____	\$21.00
G. June 3 reception	_____	\$21.00
H. June 4 concert	_____	\$21.00
I. June 5 tour lower tour	_____	\$21.00
J. June 6 tour/Concert presentation	_____	\$21.00
K. June 6 reception	_____	\$21.00

III. LIMITED ADMISSION EVENTS

Package includes events L, M, N, O
or

Select specific events below:		
L. June 2 dinner	_____	\$25.00
M. June 3 luncheon	_____	\$25.00
N. June 4 luncheon	_____	\$25.00
O. June 6 writing workshop/presentation	_____	\$25.00

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \$

Please check payment method:

Go Personal check (Make payable to THE THREE R'S OFFICE)
Go MasterCard Go Visa (We credit and purchase, complete form below)

Check and account number _____

Expiration date _____ Today's date _____

Authorized signature _____
(Please print last name of Signatory)

1993 part 1
page 48



1993 Natchez Literary Celebration
RECEPTION - STANTON HALL

6:45-8:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1993

Present ticket for complimentary drink.



1993 Natchez Literary Celebration
CHOCTAW RECEPTION

HONORING

ALL LECTURERS

8:15 P. M.

SATURDAY

JUNE 5, 1993

Please present this
portion of ticket for
free beverage.



1993 Natchez Literary Celebration
THE MUSIC OF THE MISSISSIPPI

A concert by the
Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra

7:00 P.M. FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1993

NATCHEZ MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

1993 part 1
page 49

Student artists invited to join river contest

Deadline for entries in "The Mighty Mississippi," a student art contest, is May 10, according to contest chairman Prudence McGhee.

The contest is sponsored by the Natchez Literary Celebration, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, the Natchez Art Association and the Judge George W. Armstrong Library.

"Participants must be school-age and reside in the Natchez-Vidalia area," McGhee said. "Each entry should be 11 inches by 14 inches and may be executed in any media on paper or poster board. Entry

"Each group will receive a first, second and third place cash award of \$5 for first, \$3 for second and \$2 for third place."

—Prudence McGhee
contest chairman

forms must be attached to the back of each work."

Entry forms are available from the Armstrong Library and from teachers in area schools, McGhee said. Entries will be collected at schools on May 11, she said.

Categories and subjects are drawn from topics of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, which is using the theme, "The

Three R's: Read', Ritin' and the River." These categories are:

- Pre-school through kindergarten: "Old Man River."
- Grades one and two: "Our Indian Heritage."
- Grades three and four: "Huck Finn Adventures."
- Grades five and six: "Steamboats, Pirates and Bandits."
- Grades seven and eight: "Jer-

ry Clower Stories."

■ Grades nine through 12: "Ernest Gaines Stories."

"Each group will receive a first, second and third place cash award of \$5 for first, \$3 for second and \$2 for third place," McGhee said.

"Two honorable mentions will also be given per group," she said. "These winners will receive a free pass to the showing of the movie version of 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman' at 1 p.m., June 5, at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium."

Winning entries will be displayed at the Armstrong Library from May 25 until June 6.

Friday, May 7, 1993

1993 part 1
page 50



The Natchez Democrat/Natchez's Grand Kameer

SOUTHERN STORYTELLER: Jerry Clower, popular humorist and raconteur, relaxes in his home in rural Mississippi near Liberty. Clower is among the headliners to be featured at the upcoming Natchez Literary Celebration in early June.

Southern humorist, Jerry Clower, scheduled to perform at festival

By MIKE WILLEY
The Natchez Democrat

"Ooh, Mercy!" Jerry Clower is wiping his brow this warm May morning, remembering one of the coldest nights of his life. It happened long ago on one of those two hundred nights of the year he spends away from his beloved Mississippi home. He was performing in Saint Paul, Minn., and it was co-cold.

"I ain't never been in a place in my life below zero," he says. "And when they told me it was going to get in that hotel and sleep BETWEEN those mattresses!"

It's a typical Clower story, grounded in actual event and universal in its appeal. But a joke it is not. Clower is quick to point out that he's a humorist, not a comedian.

"I don't tell funny stories," he says. "I tell stories funny. I think I've proven that the funniest things in the world actually happened."

"Why just last week," he laughs, "I was standing on the corner of the street, right here in Liberty, Mississippi, and this funeral come by. I was there with some other men folk and one turns to the other as the hearse goes by and says, 'Who died?' The other fellow looks back at the first and says, 'The one in the first car.' Clower roars with laughter at the memory. "I'll tell you what the key to my success is," he says. "God has given me enough talent to be funny without being vulgar."

Jerry Clower describes himself as "a good ole boy that grew up poor, worked hard and accumulated something, and

"I don't tell funny stories. I tell stories funny. I think I've proven that the funniest things in the world actually happened."

— Jerry Clower

strives to do it God's way.

"And I'll tell you what the secret of being a humorist is," he says. "It's the talent to remember."

Not all of Clower's stories are humorous. His earliest memory, dredged up after thirty seconds of earnest pondering, is of a funeral he attended when he was five years old. "They made the mistake of letting me see my grandmother in her coffin," he says. "She had made me tea-cakes with her own hands, and when I saw her there in that coffin with her hands folded — well, for thirty years I couldn't go to bed at night. He pauses to fold his hands over his chest. "I couldn't go to bed at night and fold my hands like this in my grandmother's face."

That story, of course, is not typical Clower material. Most of his stories are deftly molded from happier memories, material mined from the experience of being born outside Liberty "not a mile from here, in the quarters of a sawmill." Clower's natural father deserted his teenage wife and two baby sons during the great depression. Clower's family worked their way out of that, and after graduation from high school, Jerry went off to World War II.

"I graduated one day and enlisted the next," Clower says, speaking of his South

Pacific experiences aboard an aircraft carrier. "I will never forget those Kamikazi planes."

After Clower came home, "My mama said, 'Baby, what you gonna do with the rest of your life?'" "I said, Mama, I want to be a 4-H Club agent and go into ag-eye-business."

Clower went to Mississippi State where he played football with Natchezian Joe Fortunato and roomed with Joe Serio. After graduation he married his childhood sweetheart, Esterline Wells, fathomed one son and three daughters, and worked twenty years selling fertilizer. "I backed into show business," he says. "I found I could sell more fertilizer if I was funny."

A friend heard some of his stories, took a tape to MCA Record Company, and it was produced as Clower's first hit, "Jerry Clower from Yazoo City, Mississippi, Talkin'."

Twenty-four records and four books later, Clower is the best known country humorist in America. "My 25th record comes out in July," he says. "I told 'em, just call it JOE25." It'll feature the same kind of stories Clower is famous for.

Typical of Clower's recent material is a story he calls "The Glory Hole," and it's on

his most recent audio tape called "Sideshow."

"Me and Marcell Ledbetter growed up together," he says. "We'd go swimmin' in a hole in the Amite River we called the baptizing hole, the Glory Hole. We'd play at church there, have baptizing service. And we was twenty five Baptists to one Methodist, so we'd get into arguments about the correct way to baptize. Well, one day here comes Marcell, leading this goat on a leash. He wanted to baptize that goat. Now if you ever tried to put a goat in water you know what trouble we was in. We was tryin' to put that goat's head under water, and the goat was sayin', 'Do-o-o-o!' Just kickin' us and hookin' us with his horns. Well, after a while this was just too much trouble, and Marcell wipes the blood out of the corner of his eye and says, 'Look, let's just sprinkle him and let him go to Hell.'"

Has Clower's material changed over the years? "Well, yes," Clower says. "Things that happen in the neighborhood are different now. Back when I was growing up you know what our main play pretties were? Whoever had the most empty Prince Albert tobacco cans was rich. Whoever had the most empty thread spools to make wooden wheels with was rich. These toys they have now-a-days . . .," he shakes his head in disbelief.

But the material old and new is still there. Clower is looking forward to appearing in Natchez for Co-Lin's Literary Festival this spring. He has no idea what stories he'll tell. "I don't prepare anything," he says. "All I know is that I'm the Saturday

See CLOWER, Page 5C

1993 part 1
page 51

Clower

Continued from Page 1C

evaluating clower-story at the author-ium, and I know I'll start off by say- ing 'at' what a joy it is to perform in your own home country."

And afterwards he'll be back on the road. Delta Airlines' most fre- quent flyer, out at some concert somewhere wearing his trademark red suit, ruffled shirt, and his out- rigger cowboy boots. "It's a most wonderful," he says, "to watch fam- ily giggle and grin out there in the audience."

"Life ain't complicated," he

laughs, "It's sabi"

Annual literary celebration will salute Mississippi River

The fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration, June 2-6, will present Jerry Clower on stage as a special event at 7 p.m. on June 5 at the City Auditorium.

In addition, the celebration will include lectures, tours, entertainments, concerts, meals and special events saluting the Mississippi River and its influence on literature, history and culture of Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

The event, titled "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River," is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway. Free events include:

■ "Faces and Phases of the River," a guided walking tour along the Natchez bluff by national park rangers, June 2-4.

■ "The Mighty Mississippi," an exhibit of winning entries in a regional art contest at Judge George W. Armstrong Library, June 2-6.

■ "Steamboating in Style," a photograph exhibit at Historic Jefferson College by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, June 2-6.

■ "The Natchez Trace," an exhibit at the City Auditorium by the Natchez Trace Parkway, June 2-6.

■ "The Historic Natchez Collection," an exhibit of reproduction furniture and accessories at

the Historic Natchez Foundation on South Commerce Street, June 2-6.

■ "Afro-American Life in Natchez," an exhibit at the Natchez Afro-American Museum by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, June 3.

■ Living history re-enactment of the Union Army's occupation of Natchez, 1863-65, on the grounds of Melrose, June 5-6.

Lectures begin on June 2 and continue through June 5 at the City Auditorium. All oral presentations except for the June 5 presentation at 7 p.m. are open on a space-available basis for a registration fee of \$5 a day or \$20 for all four days. Lectures are financially

assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Tickets for all events are available at Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264 in Natchez. The telephone number at Natchez Box Office is 445-0353.

Lectures are as follows: ■ "The Heritage of the Mississippi River," by John Hoestery, leader of the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project of the U.S. Department of the Interior, June 2, 1:15 p.m.

■ "Spaniards, Frenchmen and the Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763," by Dr. William S. Coker, professor of history emeritus at the University of West

Florida in Pensacola, June 2, 2:45 p.m.

■ "Language without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," by Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the department of history at Mississippi State University, June 3, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River," by Dr. Robert V. Remini, professor of history at the University of Illinois in Chicago, June 3, 10 a.m.

■ "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," by Dr. David G. Sanning, professor of history at the University of Mississippi in

See RIVER, Page 5C

More than 365 Miss-Lou names and faces are featured in today's paper.

River

Continued from Page 1C
Oxford, June 3, 11:15 a.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," by Terrence Winschel, historian with the Vicksburg National Military Park, June 3, 2 p.m.

■ "The Adventures of Huck-leberry Finn," the movie, with discussion led by Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, professor of American Film Studies at Centre College in Danville, Ky., June 3, 3:15 p.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam," by Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, author and historian of Natchez, June 4, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, visiting fellow at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England, June 4, 10 a.m.

■ "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," by Hilary Jacques Knight III, associate professor of English at Tougaloo College, June 4, 11 a.m.

■ "The Rivers in My Life," by Willie Morris, Mississippi author, June 4, 2 p.m.

■ "Good Ol' Boy," a movie based on a Willie Morris book, with a discussion led by Dr. Vahlkamp, June 4, 3:15 p.m.

■ "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," by Dr. Peggy W. Prensshaw, professor of English

at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, June 5, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Poet Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary," by Elizabeth Spencer, writer-in-residence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, June 5, 9:15 a.m.

■ "Of Men and Rivers," by Ernest Gaines, writer-in-residence at University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette, June 5, 10:45 a.m.

Other ticketed events, which require admission above the general admission to the lectures:

■ "Storytelling Along the River Road," by Dr. William Ferris of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Southern Mississippi and humorist Jerry Clower of Liberty on June 5 at 7,

Library collection

New and donated additions to the Judge George W. Armstrong Library collection includes:

Adult fiction

"Cat Who Went into the Closet" by Lilian Jackson Braun;

"Garden Club" by Muriel Resnik Jackson;

"Holy Thief" by Ellis Peters;

"I'll Be Seeing You" by Mary Higgins Clark;

"Now You See Him" by Anne Stuart;

"Poison Flowers" by Natasha Cooper;

"Reckless" by Amanda Quick;

"Ten Thousand" by H.W. Croyle.

Adult nonfiction

"Birthday Cake Book" by Sylvia Thompson;

"Book of U.S. Postal Exams" by Vellicezar B. Baustiza;

"Carvings: Roller Coaster" by Billie Jackson;

"Cars" by M. Krebs;

"Catfish and the Delta" by Richard Schwell;

"Complete Medicinal Herbs" by Penelope Odys;

"Contraceptives" by Linda Williams;

"Conception, Pregnancy and Birth" by Miriam Stoppard;

"Fashion" by Kathleen Beckett;

"Fitness" by Maara R. Curless;

"Gail Brown's All-New Instant

Interiors" by Gail Brown;

"Health Care" by Susan Gordon;

"History of Men's Costume" by Marion Sichel;

"History of Women's Costume" by Marion Sichel;

"Medical and Spiritual Guide to Living with Cancer" by W.A. Fietel;

"Music" by Ted Greenwald;

"Nurses: The Human Touch" by Michael Brown;

"Why Doesn't My Fanny Bone Make Me Laugh" by Alan P. Xenakis;

Adult reference

"Critical Essays of Walker Percy" by J. Donald Crowley;

"Handbook of Chemistry and Physics";

"Peterson First Guide to Caterpillars" by Arny Bartlett Wright;

"Peterson First Guide to Trees" by George A. Petrides;

"Tapping the Government Grapevine" by Judith S. Robinson;

Children's books

"Animal Science" by Anita Ganeri;

"Attabo, Sun!" by Lois Lowry;

"Body Science" by Anita Ganeri;

"Disappearing Friend Mystery" by Gertrude C. Warner;

"Earthwise at School" by Linda Lowery;

"Hercules" by Arlene Erthack.

1993 part 1
page 52

In Case You're Interested...

• Story's Second Annual Short Short Story Competition, sponsored by Parker Pen USA.

- First place is a \$1,000 cash award. They are looking for short stories 1,500 words or less. Deadline for entries is October 31, 1993. For more info call or write Story, Jennifer Jones, 1507 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45207 (513) 531-2222.

Mississippi Writers Association REFERENCE LIBRARY

George Durr is in the process of providing a reference and study area in his bookstore, Cover To Cover, in Highland Village. The area will be available to members to do research, listen to tapes, and more.

To complete the area we need your donations of books. Whatever you can spare. These books will be placed in the Reference area for members use. Remember MWA is non-profit so your book donation (or \$\$\$, we take either) is tax deductible. We'll have more details in the coming months.

Saturday Writers Workshops

Travel Writing
Rebecca Hood-Adams
Saturday, June 26
10:00am - 3:00pm
Highland Village



- Rebecca is an experienced travel writer who worked for many years as a writer for the Clarion Ledger. She is the prize-winning author of a collection of verse. She has also appeared in the Mississippi Magazine as well as other publications. Rebecca is a teacher of creative writing for the Milsaps College Adult Learning Series.

Marketing Your Manuscript
Sherry Bryant-Johnson
Saturday, September 18
10:00am - 3:00pm
Highland Village

- Sherry has been a teacher of creative writing for the Milsaps college Adult Learning Series. She has published extensively in national publications such as Parade, American Film, Soap Opera Digest, Ebony. She has also written for W. M. Spense Co.

Mining Your Memories
Rebecca Hood-Adams
Saturday, August 21
10:00am - 3:00pm
Highland Village

- This is a workshop for beginning writers. It is also helpful to people who are trying to put together their family history. Rebecca is a prize winning author and has appeared in many publications. She is a creative writing teacher for the Milsaps College Adult Learning Series.

"To Nurture & Educate Writers"

1993 part 1
page 53

June 1993

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT, Natchez, Miss. *5

Year-round calendar of events

Welcome to Natchez on the Mississippi River! This calendar of events tells you about tours, entertainment, festivals, sites to see and more. As Natchez's beautiful seasons blend one into the other, events to suit every taste fill the calendar.

In the hot summertime, when locals head for beaches, a lakeside retreat or air-conditioned rooms, travelers from cold climates come to relish the warm, humid days.

In the fall, winter and spring, visitors frequently are amazed at the beauty and color this small Mississippi city has to offer. Here today? Come tomorrow, too — and next month or next season.

■ **JUNE** will kick off a glorious celebration of the Mississippi River when the Natchez Literary Celebration gets under way during the first week of June.

The literary event combines scholarly lectures with lighter entertainment and tours of some of the area's historic sites. Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park, the celebration is an international event.

This year the celebration will carry out the theme, "Readin', Writin' and the River," a salute to the literature and arts inspired by the Mississippi River. The June 2-7 event will feature a concert of Mississippi River tunes by the Mississippi Pops Symphony Orchestra.

Information about tickets is available at Natchez Box Office, 1-800-862-3259, or locally, 445-0353. Address correspondence to Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 894, Natchez, Miss. 39121-0894.

'93 literary celebration holds a special appeal for African-Americans

The rich African-American heritage of the Natchez area during the 19th and 20th centuries will be a major part of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, according to Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Smith is co-chairman of the celebration with Becky Juskin Nevill of Co-Lin and Gerald Gaudin of the Natchez National Historical Park. The event, set for June 2-6, is co-sponsored by Co-Lin and the historical park.

"Several prominent Natchez African-Americans serve on the celebration's steering committee," Smith said. "They include Judge Mary Lee Tolson, president of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture; William Trench of The Bluff City Post; Josie Gilchrist-Audette, vice president of NAPAC; and Betty Muller, director of student support services at Co-Lin."

Theme for the conference is "The Three R's: Readin', Writin' and the River." Interspersed in the conference, which includes 16 lectures in the Natchez

Municipal Auditorium on Jefferson Street, will be house tours, movies, receptions, a symphony pops concert and special meals, Smith said.

"Natchez's own Hillary Jacques Knight III, a professor of English and a published poet from Tougaloo College, will be one of the several African-Americans in the spotlight," Smith said. "His mother, Odemere Knight, is highly regarded as one of Natchez's outstanding educators."

"Mr. Knight will read from his poetry which was influenced by the river and comment on it," Smith said. Knight's presentation is set for 11 a.m. on June 4. Another African-American prominent in the conference is the author Ernest Gaines of Ocoee, La., near Natchez, "who is famous for his novel 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman,'" Smith said. Gaines will present his program at 10:45 a.m. June 5.

"Also on the program is Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin of Cambridge University, England," Smith said. "She is author of a brand-new book, 'Was Huck Black?' Mark See APPEAL, Page 4

Appeal

Continued from Page 3

"Twain and African-American Voices," which explores the influence of African-Americans on Twain's fiction."

Also of interest to African-Americans is a program on Elizabeth T. Greenfield, a slave born in Natchez who rose to fame as a soprano, Smith said. Billed as "The Black Swan" in 1853, Greenfield gave a command performance for Queen Victoria in London.

At 11:15 a.m. June 3, Dr. David Stanning of the University of Mississippi will discuss the Black Swan. Dr. Elaine Holly, soprano of Jackson State University, will sing selections possessed by the Black Swan in London in 1853.

In conjunction with the lectures, the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture will hold an open house June 30 at the NAPAC Museum on Market Street. From 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. that day will be general tours, Smith said.

"Then from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m., Judge Tolson and her board will host a reception open to the public. This reception will honor Hillary Knight and former Gov. William Winter, who is master of ceremonies for the celebration."

Presenting a concert after dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant on June

"Natchez's own Hillary Jacques Knight III, a professor of English and a published poet from Tougaloo College, will be one of the several African-Americans in the spotlight. His mother, Odemere Knight, is highly regarded as one of Natchez's outstanding educators."

— Carolyn Vance Smith

2 will be additional African-Americans. They are Alvin Shelby and members of the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir.

Serving as lecture chairmen for the conference are still other African-Americans. They are Tolson, Dr. Francis Henderson, director of Alcorn State University's Division of Nursing in Natchez; Theodore "Bubba" West, a Natchez sideman; and Dr. Alfred Harrison, a professor of history at Jackson State University.

1993 part 1
page 54

Guide to Historic Natchez

Literary Celebration brings focus to Mississippi River magic

The fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration, June 2-6, will present jury classes on stage as a special event at 7 p.m. on June 3 at City Auditorium.

In addition, the celebration will include many lectures, tours, demonstrations, concerts, poetry and special events relating to the Mississippi River and its influence on literature, history and culture of Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

The event, titled, "The River: It's Realist," "Fiction," and "The River," is sponsored by Capitol-Litwoods Contemporary College and the National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway.

Free events include:

- "Thems and Them of the River," a guided walking tour along the Natchez bluff by railroad park margins, June 2-4.
- "The Mighty Mississippi," an exhibit at Judge George W. Amanning Library, June 2-6.
- "Discovering in Style," a photo graph exhibit at Historic Old College by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, June 2-6.
- "The Natchez Trace," an exhibit at City Auditorium by the Natchez Trace

Parkway, June 2-6.

- "The Historic Natchez Collection," an exhibit of reproduction furniture and accessories at the Natchez Natchez Foundation on South Commerce Street, June 2-6.

- "African-American Life in Natchez," an exhibit at the Natchez African-American Museum by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of African-American Culture, June 3.

- Living history re-enactment of the Union Army's occupation of Natchez, 1863-65, on the grounds of Madison, June 2-6.

- An all-day workshop on *Archival material from Natchez*, Natchez, about Spanish Natchez, led by Dr. Douglas Inglis of Seattle, as expert on Spanish Natchez. The workshop will be June 1 at the Judge George W. Amanning Library, June 2-6.

- Lectures begin on June 2 and continue through June 3 at City Auditorium. All and presentations except for the June 3 presentation at 7 p.m. are open to a space available basis for a registration fee of \$5 a day or \$20 for all four days. Lectures are financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Tickets for all events are available at Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 2024, Natchez. The telephone number at Natchez Box Office is 445-0333.

Lectures are as follows:

- "The Heritage of the Mississippi River," by John R. Brinkley, leader of the Mississippi River Heritage Council, President of the U.S. Department of the Interior, June 2, 11:30 a.m.

- "Spanish, Franciscan and the Englishmen on the Mississippi River," 11:30-12:30 p.m., Dr. William S. Cobb, professor of history studies at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, June 2, 2:45 p.m.

- "Language without Institution: Hopewell, Fantasy and Tall Tale in the Early Days on the Mississippi," by Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the department of history at Mississippi State University, June 3, 8:30 a.m.

- "Announcing Spanish Natchez: An 18th-Century River Town," by Dr. Douglas Inglis of Seattle, Spain, June 3, 10 a.m. begins in an expert on Spanish Natchez.

- "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Town of Natchez," by Dr. David G. Searing, professor of history at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, June 3, 11:15 a.m.

- "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," by Thomas Winkler, director with the Vicksburg National Military Park, June 3, 2 p.m.

- "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," the movie, with discussion led by Dr. Charles G. Vailkampi, professor of American Film Studies at Cedar College in Danville, Ky., June 3, 3:15 p.m.

- "The Mississippi River and the River," by Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, author and editor of *The Mississippi River*, June 3, 4:30 p.m.

- "Black Slave/Black Man/Town and African-American Voices," by Dr. Stephen Foster, editor, visiting editor at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England, June 4, 10 a.m.

- "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invention," by Henry James Knight III, associate professor of English at Virginia College, June 4, 11 a.m.

- "The River in My Life," by Willie Morris, Mississippi writer, June 4, 2 p.m.

- "Good Ol' Boy," a movie based on a Willie Morris book, with a discussion led by Dr. Vailkampi, June 4, 3:15 p.m.

- "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscape of the River," by Dr. Peggy M. Fenderson, professor of English at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, June 5, 8:30 a.m.

See MAGAZINE, Page 2

Campbell will headline state writers conference

Will D. Campbell, author of "Bend Sin a Dragonfly," and "Providence," and eight other titles, will be the featured speaker at the annual Mississippi Writers Conference.

The event will be held Sunday, June 6, in Natchez, immediately after the Natchez Literary Celebration.

"Our regular meetings are held in Natchez," said Dr. Richard, president of the Mississippi Writers Association. "This year we're moving our annual conference to Natchez as an extension to the Natchez Literary Celebration. We want people to be able to take advantage of both programs."

The celebration's theme, "The River: It's Realist," "Fiction," and "The River," is a result for the association. The festival will "This theme is about the contribution that Mississippi writers made and are still making to literature. The MWA's goal is to inform and educate as many writers as possible for Mississippi's writing future," he said.

The Mississippi Writers Conference begins at 9 a.m. June 6 at the Shaw-Walker River Park Hotel on Canal Street. It is located at the base of the Mississippi River Bridge.

The MWA conference is funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council, and all

conference workshops are free and open to the public.

Between Natchez-Albany will kick-off the program at 9:30 a.m. with "Writing Your Own Novel Using Personal History to Create a Sense of Place in Fiction." A Pulitzer Prize nominee and guest lecturer at the National Institute of Poetry in London, David Adams is now a creative writing instructor at Middle College. She has been a newspaper columnist and writer for many years.

At 10:30 a.m., Dr. Anne Fenderson, executive editor for the University Press of Mississippi, will speak on "The Publisher's Role in Influencing American Literature: Writing on Commercial Writing." Fenderson, who lives in Jackson, is the wife of author Willie Morris, who will speak June 4 at the Natchez Literary Celebration.

At 11:30 a.m., the MWA will host a champagne brunch featuring award-winning writer Will Campbell. Campbell will talk about his latest book, "Recklessness." The book chronicles the 170-year history of a square mile of Mississippi soil.

"With wit and wisdom, we're a spell, charming audience," Beckenstein said. "It is an opportunity to see the greatest living non-fiction writer in America."

Campbell will return at 6 p.m. for an

See MAGAZINE, Page 2

Guide to historic Natchez

Magic

Continued from Page 2

- "The Chameleon: A Reading with Commentary," by Elizabeth Spencer, writer-in-residence at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, June 3, 8:15 a.m.

- "Of Bits and Pieces," by Ernest Goss, writer-in-residence at University of Mississippi in Oxford, June 3, 10:45 a.m.

- "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pakenham," a movie based on the Ernest Goss novel with a discussion led by Dr. Vailkampi.

- Other related events, which require admission after the general admission to the lectures listed above include:

- "Storytelling Along the River:

Read," by Dr. William Ferris of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Southern Mississippi and Natchez Literary Council of Liberty on June 3 at 7 p.m.

- A tour of historic structures along the river, including Rowan, The Paragon, the Train Station on Broadway and Evans-Bentley, June 3, 5:30 to 6 p.m. The River Story House will provide remarks about reflecting in Southern Mississippi during the same event tour.

- "The Magic of Mississippi," by the Mississippi Southern Pageant, June 4, 7 to 8 p.m.

- A Victorian banquet at Magnolia Hall, June 4, at 12:15 p.m.

- Dinner at the Cottage House Restaurant with a concert by the Ruby Family Catholic Church choir, June 2-6 p.m.

Writers

Continued from Page 2

work of several questions and answers and to exchange his books.

Tickets for the champagne brunch are \$15 and \$20 by pre-purchase at the Natchez Box Office by calling 445-0002-1259 or 445-0333. Those holding brunch tickets will be admitted free to all conference workshops. Others will be able to hear Campbell speak without charge on a space-available basis.

Dr. Anne Lowell, chairman of the literature and culture, will speak at 1 p.m. Lowell has been a child-care book writer for the Children's Literature and the Natchez Literary Council for a number of years. She is a former director for the Natchez Literary Council, the largest literary of children's books in North America. She is an assistant librarian at the School of Library and Information at the University of Wisconsin.

At 2 p.m., Dr. Peggy Fenderson, professor of English at Louisiana State University, will lead a workshop on "The Art and Artifice of the Interview."

At 3 p.m., Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the Department of History at Mississippi State University, will speak on "The Place of Tall Tales in Literature."

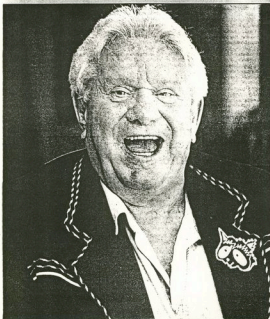
1993 part 1
page 55

Tourists guide to ... Historic Natchez

June 1993

A monthly reader service of The Natchez Democrat

Natchez, Miss.



UNE PERFORMER: Popular humorist Jerry Clower will entertain during the 1993 Natchez Library Celebration.

Carolyn V. Smith

Jerry Clower

America's Top Humorist



In Natchez

'Stories From Home'

Saturday, June 5

7:00 p.m.

City Auditorium

\$7.50

Tickets available from
Natchez Box Office
(601) 445-0353
1-800-862-3259
or at the door

June in Natchez

June in Natchez holds appeal for intellectuals and fan-lovers alike, with a variety of activities.

In the beginning of the month, the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration will bring some of the most renowned literary figures in the nation and world to this town to discuss "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritins and the River."

In addition to more than 15 fascinating lectures on a variety of topics, the celebration will include a symphony concert, tours of historic area houses and buildings, free exhibits, tours of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture Museum and a program by world-famous humorist Jerry Clower.

For two weekends this month, some of the city's most spectacular Victorian houses will be open for a unique tour of a sometimes forgotten period in Natchez's history. The house tours offer a rare peek at the Victorian grandeur offered here.

As the end of the month nears, the annual Great Steamboat Race makes its annual stop in the Miss-Lou for the traditional Floozy Day contest — always a fan-filled event.



Wednesday, June 2, 1993

1:00 p.m. "The Heritage of the Mississippi River" Mr. John Henderson

2:45 p.m. "Demography, Race, and Religion in the Mississippi River, 1710-1900" Dr. William G. Latta

Thursday, June 3, 1993

8:30 a.m. "Language Without Inhibition: Monks, Farmers, and Tail Tails in the Early Days on the Mississippi" Dr. Charles Latta

10:00 a.m. "Administering Quatern Natchez: A Late 19th Century River Town" Dr. Douglas Irby

11:15 a.m. "From the Mississippi River to the Blue Heaven: The Black Town of Natchez" Dr. David G. Searling

2:00 p.m. "The Mississippi River and the Civil War" Mr. Lawrence Winkler

3:15 p.m. "The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn: A Movie Based on the River by Mark Twain" Dr. Charles G. Vachling

Friday, June 4, 1993

8:30 a.m. "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: A History of the River and the Town" Dr. Thomas H. Gandy

10:00 a.m. "New York World's Fair: A History of the Fair and the Town" Dr. Shirley Fisher-Francis

11:00 a.m. "The Romance of France and the River's Inhabitants" Mr. Sidney Jackson-Engel

Friday, June 4, 1993, CONTINUED

2:00 p.m. "The River in My Life" Mr. Mike Morris

3:15 p.m. "Great 'Natchez' A Movie From Natchez" Mr. Henderson

7:00-8:00 p.m. "The Music of the Mississippi" Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra (at Fazio Theater)

Saturday, June 5, 1993

8:30 a.m. "Election Speeches: A History of the River" Dr. Douglas Irby

10:00 a.m. "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Phipps" A Movie Based on the River by Mark Twain

11:45 a.m. "Olden and Newer" Mr. Ernest Gaines

2:00 p.m. "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Phipps" A Movie Based on the River by Mark Twain

3:00-4:00 p.m. Tour of Historic Buildings Near the River (at Fazio Theater)

7:00 p.m. "Stepping Along the River Road" Dr. William F. Felt and Mr. Jerry Clower (at Fazio Theater)

8:15 p.m. "Olden and Newer" Mr. Ernest Gaines (at Fazio Theater)

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The Natchez Literary Celebration

1993 part 1
page 56

FOCUS on the Humanities

A Publication of the Mississippi Humanities Council

Summer 1993

6/2-6/6--Natchez. Natchez Literary Celebration: "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River." Carolyn Smith, 442-9111



DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
P.O. BOX 571 JACKSON, MS 39205-0571

ARTS

■ **GATHERING AT THE RIVER:** A salute to the Mississippi River will bring scholars and folklorists to **Natchez, Miss.**, in early June for the 1993 Literary Celebration, titled "Readin', Ritin' and the River." Speakers include Mark Twain scholar Shelley Fisher Fishkin, comic Jerry Clower and writers Elizabeth Spencer and Willie Morris. A TV documentary, "Return to the River," in which writers and artists talk about the river as they tour it on a steamboat, will be unveiled. . . . Alex Haley's "Roots" manuscripts go on display today at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (See article, Page D3).



Jerry Clower

The Three R's: Readin', Ritin', and the River: Natchez Literary Celebration June 2-6

The river and its influence on the literature, history, and culture of Natchez and the lower Mississippi River valley will be the subject of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration June 2-6. Co-chairs Becky Junkin Nevill and Carolyn Vance Smith announce a program featuring distinguished historians, writers, and special events, such as the premiere of MAETV's documentary, "Return to the River." Among historians scheduled are Robert V. Remini, University of Illinois; William S. Coker, University of West Florida; and Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Cambridge University. Writers present will include Elizabeth Spencer, Ernest Gaines, Will D. Campbell, and Willie Morris. Director of Proceedings for the Celebration will be the Honorable William F. Winter, president, Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Writing workshops, films, special meals, symphonic music programs, receptions, exhibits, and reenactments are also offered. The event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway. For ticket information contact the Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39121-1264.

1993 part 1
page 57

atlanta newspaper 3-1-93

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

Carolyn Vance Smith has spoken on the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration to various groups: Mississippians for Educational Broadcasting in Jackson, Southeast Conference of Teachers of English in the Two-Year College in Chattanooga, Mississippi Historical Society in Pascagoula, English Club at Co-Lin Wesson, Adams County Board of Supervisors, and the Natchez Writers Club.

The Natchez Literary Celebration has received numerous cash gifts. Gifts received in mid-March were \$250 from South Central Bell and \$100 from Bluff City Distributors.

Nearly 200 participants in the NLC will be international Elderhostelers, hailing from across the United States and Canada.

"The Mighty Mississippi," theme of an art contest which is part of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, has been announced by contest chairman Prudence McGehee. Mrs. McGehee, art instructor at Co-Lin Natchez, will be assisted by representatives of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, the Natchez Art Association and the Judge George W. Armstrong Library. Contestants may come from preschool through grade 12 in Miss-Lou schools. Cash awards will be presented to winners. Deadline to enter is May 1. Details and entry forms are available from the chairman or from NLC co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

BOARD REPORT

April 1, 1993

A Southern Phenomenon: The Natchez Literary Celebration

Reading isn't just alive. It's kicking! Nothing proves this more than the annual Natchez Literary Celebration, set for June 2-5, 1993. Hundreds are expected for this international conference, sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service.

With the irresistible theme, "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River," the conference will feature lectures, concerts, tours, a Civil War re-enactment, films, writing workshops, ETV's "Return to the River" and more.

The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River

*Natchez, Mississippi
June 2-6, 1993*

The fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration features lectures, tours, entertainments, concerts, meals, and special events saluting the influence of Ol' Man River on the literature, history, and culture of Natchez and the lower Mississippi River Valley.

The event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway. Lectures are financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council. The Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra concert is supported in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission.

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS,
PLEASE CALL
NATCHEZ BOX OFFICE AT
(601)445-0353 OR 1-800-862-3259**

College Notes

Programs, and Ideas From Mississippi's Public Community & Junior College System

January 31, 1993

For low-cost tickets, call Natchez
Box Office (601) 445-0353 or
1-800-862-3259.

*COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

1993 part 1
page 58

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1993

Looks like the good folks down at Copiah-Lincoln Community College are about to show off again. This year's Natchez Literary Celebration — scheduled for June 2-5 — is the fourth, and it appears to be better, if that's possible, than its three predecessors.

Carolyn Vance Smith, who teaches English at Co-Lin's Natchez campus, said the 1993 edition would be based on the Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin' and the River.

"We think this conference will have a more universal appeal because of the fascination for the Mississippi River down through history," Smith said.

Some of the authors on tap: Willie Morris, Elizabeth Spencer, Ernest Gaines, Hillery Knight, Bill Ferris and Jerry Clower.

Shelley Fishkin, the University of Texas professor who has been at Cambridge University for the past year, also will be there to discuss her book, *Was Huck Finn Black?* — Mark Twain's African-American Voices.

Smith said there will be a "pre-conference workshop" on June 1 with records of Natchez from the archives of Seville, Spain; and a "post-conference workshop" on June 6 sponsored by the Mississippi Writers Association, featuring Will D. Campbell as the keynote speaker.

For information on the Natchez Literary Celebration, call 1-800-862-3259, or write P.O. Box 1264; Natchez, 39121...

1993 part 1
page 59

Humorist turned fertilizer into entertainment career

By MIKE WILLEY
The Natchez Democrat

LIBERTY, Miss. (AP) — "Ooh, Mercy!"

Jerry Clower is wiping his brow this warm May morning, remembering one of the coldest nights of his life. It happened long ago on one of those two hundred nights of the year he spends away from his beloved Mississippi home. He was performing in St. Paul, Minn., and it was cold.

"I ain't never been in a place in my life below zero," he said. "And when they told me it was going to get down to thirty below zero, ooh mercy, I got in that hotel and slept between those mattresses!"

It's a typical Clower story, grounded in actual event and universal in its appeal. But a joke it is not. Clower is quick to point out that he's a humorist, not a comedian.

"I don't tell funny stories," he said. "I tell stories funny. I think I've proven that the funniest things in the world actually happened."

"Why just last week," he said. "I was standing on the corner of the street, right here in Liberty, Miss., and this funeral came by. I was there with some other men folk and one turns to the other as the hearse goes by and said, 'Who died?' The other fellow looks back at the first and said, 'The one in the first car.'"

Clower roars with laughter at the memory.

"I'll tell you what the key to my success is," he said. "God has given me enough talent to be funny without being vulgar."

Jerry Clower describes himself as "a good ole boy that grew up poor, worked hard and accumulated something, and strives to do it God's way."

"And I'll tell you what the secret of being a humorist is," he said. "It's the talent to remember."

Not all of Clower's stories are humorous.

"I'll tell you what the key to my success is. God has given me enough talent to be funny without being vulgar."

JERRY CLOWER

His earliest memory, dredged up after thirty seconds of earnest pondering, is of a funeral he attended when he was 5 years old.

"They made the mistake of letting me see my grandmother in her coffin," he said. "She had made me tea-cakes with her own hands, and when I saw her there in that coffin with her hands folded — well, for thirty years I couldn't go to bed at night."

He pauses to fold his hands over his chest. "I couldn't go to bed at night and fold my hands like this in my grandmother's face."

That story, of course, is not typical Clower material.

Most of his stories are molded from happier memories, material mined from the experience of being born outside Liberty "not a mile from here, in the quarters of a sawmill."

Clower's natural father deserted his teen wife and two baby sons during the Depression. Clower's family worked their way out of that, and, after graduation from high school, Jerry went off to World War II.

"I graduated one day and enlisted the next," Clower said, speaking of his South Pacific experiences aboard an aircraft carrier. "I will never forget those Kamikaze planes."

After Clower came home, "My mama said, 'Baby, what you gonna do with the rest of your life?' I said, 'Mama, I want to be a 4-H Club agent and go into agriculture.'"

Clower went to Mississippi State University, where he played football. After graduation he married his childhood sweet-

heart, Homerize Wells, fathered one son and three daughters, and worked 20 years selling fertilizer.

"I had come to show business," he said. "I found I could sell more fertilizer if I was funny."

A friend heard some of his stories, took a tape to MCA Record Co. and it was produced as Clower's first hit, "Jerry Clower from Yazoo City, Mississippi, Talkin'."

Twenty-four records and four books later, Clower is the best-known country humorist in America.

"My 25th record comes out in July," he said. "I told 'em, just call it JC25."

It will feature the same kind of stories Clower is famous for.

Typical of Clower's recent material is a story he calls "The Glory Hole," and it's on his most recent audio tape called "Side-winder."

"Me and Marcell Ledbetter grewed up together."

"We'd go swimmin' in a hole in the Amite River we called the baptizing hole, the Glory Hole. We'd play at church there, have baptizing service. And we was twenty five Baptists to one Methodist, so we'd get into arguments about the correct way to baptize."

"Well, one day here comes Marcell, leading this goat on a leash. He wanted to baptize that goat. Now if you ever tried to put a goat in water you know what trouble we was in."

"We was tryin' to put that goat's head under water, and the goat was sayin', 'Do-o-n't. Just kickin' us and hookin' us with his horns. Well, after a while this was just too much trouble, and



Jerry Clower
"I tell stories funny"

Marcell wipes the blood out of the corner of his eye and said, 'Look, let's just sprinkle him and let him go to Hell.'"

Has Clower's material changed over the years?

"Well, yes," Clower said. "Things that happen in the neighborhood are different now. Back when I was growing up you know what our main play prettiewere? Whoever had the most empty Prince Albert tobacco cans was rich. Whoever had the most empty thread spools to make wooden wheels with was rich. These toys they have nowadays..."

But the material old and new is still there.

Clower is looking forward to appearing in Natchez, Miss., for the annual Literary Festival in June. He has no idea what stories he'll tell.

"I don't prepare anything," he said. "All I know is that I'm the Saturday evening closer-outer at the auditorium, and I know I'll start off by sayin' 'what a joy it is to perform in your own home country.'"

And afterward he'll be back on the road, Delta Airline's most frequent flier, out at some corner somewhere wearing his trade mark red suit, ruffled shirt and white ostrich cowboy boots.

"It's just wonderful," he said "to watch families giggle and grin out there in the audience."

"Life ain't complicated," he said. "Ha-ah!"

Jerry Clower is to present "Stories from Home" at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 5, 1993, at the Natchez Literary Celebration. Tickets are \$7.50

Highlight of Saturday evening is "Storytelling Along the River Road" by Dr. William Ferris, director of Ole Miss Center for the Study of Southern Culture, and Jerry Clower, downhome humorist from nearby Liberty. Saturday also features tours of historic homes near the river, Rosalie, the Parsonage, the William Johnson House and Evans-Bontura, as well as an evening open house at Choctaw.



All day on Sunday, writing workshops will be sponsored by the Mississippi Writers Association at the Best Western River Park Hotel. Throughout the week, oral presentations are mostly open on a space-avail basis for those paying registration fees, with meals additional.

Free public events include a guided walking tour along the Natchez Bluff, art and photographic exhibitions, a living history re-enactment of the Union Army's occupation of Natchez 1863-1865 at Melrose, an exhibit of African American life in early Natchez and other displays featuring the Natchez Trace and the Historic Natchez Collection.

Ticket information may be obtained by writing to Natchez Box Office P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39121 or by telephoning (601) 445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.



Stanton Hall in Natchez is the site of a gala reception honoring Mississippi Educational Television on the premiere of "Return to the River," a 90-minute documentary. The gala will be Wednesday, June 2, 6:30 - 8 p.m. A \$5 ticket is necessary to attend.

1993 part 1
page 61

Using words as weapons

By HILLEL ITALIE

Associate Press writer

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines (Alfred A. Knopf, \$21) — Ernest Gaines didn't march in major Civil Rights protests during the 1960s. He had left the South years before and was busy trying to become a writer, a dream he dates back to his discovery of a library that was not for whites only.

But while it is typical of this poet, philosophical man that he would choose to avoid the more visible struggles of the time, it is also typical he would find a quiet, thoughtful way of adding his support.

His setting wasn't a clubhouse or a lunch counter, but a tiny room in San Francisco. No food or placards were raised in anger. Instead, there were words, plenty of words, their purpose as intense and unshakable as a boycott of city buses.

"When Paul Corney would see the dogs, I thought, 'Well, write a better paragraph,'" recalled Gaines, now living in a larger house in San Francisco and working as a writer-in-residence at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

"In 1963, when I was writing *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, my friends said, 'Why write about a 110-year-old lady when all of this is going on now?' And I said, 'I think she's going to have something to say about it.'"

"I recently read a passage to some students of the massacre scene in *Miss Jane Pittman*. They said, 'I live in the world you write about this slaughtering and say you didn't get angry.' I said, 'No, I did not get angry, but I wanted to write so well and so fast so you'd think you'll get angry and not let this ever happen again.'"

To look at him now, you might think Gaines personally organized every demonstration. The 60-year-old author is a large, sud-eyed man, who walks slowly and speaks in a rich, mellow voice that could make a believer out of Bill Gates. Lectures about hard times are unnecessary. His first job was on a Louisiana plantation at age 9, many of his childhood friends died young because they were murdered, or from poor health.

But Gaines can't hide a sense of playfulness. With a warm and unabashed smile, he admits to a lasting fondness for the soothing effects of bourbon. His stylish brown beret is fitting for a one-time French poetry and Russian novels.

Each of Gaines' own work — six novels, a collection of stories and a children's book — is set in rural Louisiana. Remembering the letters he wrote for the old, misused people on the plantation, he likes to think of his books as a way of continuing that correspondence, speaking up for those who helped him develop his own voice.

In his new novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*, the year is 1948, and a young field worker, Jefferson, has been sentenced to



Associated Press photo

Ernest Gaines' newest book is *A Lesson Before Dying*, the story of a young field worker condemned to die.

"I had to make decisions very, very early. You have to make a decision when not to confront a white man, when to ask him a question, when to move off a sidewalk, how to do anything."

the electric chair for killing a white man. To add to his suffering, his own lawyer contended Jefferson didn't have the brains

to commit pre-meditated murder, that you might as well execute a dog while you're at it.

With Jefferson brooding silently in jail, his godmother summons Grant Wiggins, a schoolteacher and the nephew of one of her closest friends. Grant is assigned in a simple one, as simple as open-heart surgery. In the short time before Jefferson's trip to the electric chair, Grant is supposed to make him a man.

"Make him a man?" How can Grant make him a man when he doesn't know what a man is? He certainly doesn't think of himself that way. He can't forgive himself for staying in Louisiana, not when a college

(Continued on Page 18)

'Reading', 'Ritin', and the River'

Five days of lectures, workshops, tours and other special events will begin Wednesday in Natchez, Miss., when the Natchez Literary Celebration presents "The Three R's: Reading, Ritin', and the River."

Wednesday: 1:15 p.m. "The Heritage of the Mississippi River" by John Hester, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2:45 p.m. "Spartan, Frenchmen and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1539-1763," William S. Coker, professor of history emeritus, University of West Florida.

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. "Language Without Oblivion: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," Charles Lowery, chairman, department of history, Mississippi State University, 10 a.m. "Administering Spanish Natchez: A Late 18th Century River Town," Douglas Allen, Seattle, Spain, 11:15 a.m. "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Legend of Natchez," David G. Sams, professor of history, University of Mississippi, 2 p.m. "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," Terrence Winchesel, historian, U.S. Department of the Interior, 3:15 p.m. "The Adventure of Blackberry Flies, a movie based on the novel by Mark Twain, with a discussion led by Charles G. Vahlkamp, professor, American film studies, Centre College, Danville, Ky.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mark Twain, Boats and Steam," Thomas H. Gandy, author and historian, Natchez, 10 a.m. "Win Hark Black" Mark Twain and African-American Voices, Shelley Fisher Sturges, Cambridge University, 11 a.m. "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," Hilary Jacques Knight III, associate professor of English, Tusculum College, Tennessee, 7 p.m. "The Haven in My Life," Willie Morris, author, Jackson, Miss., 9:15 p.m. "Good Ol' Boy," a movie filmed in Natchez and based on Morris' book, with discussion led by Vahlkamp.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," Peggy W. Freeman, professor of English, LSU, 9:15 a.m. "Port Claphorne: A Reading with Commentary," Elizabeth Spencer, writer-in-residence, University of North Carolina, Gaines, writer-in-residence, USL, 1 p.m. "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," a movie based on Gaines' novel with discussion led by Vahlkamp, 3:30 p.m. "A tour of historic houses near the river: Rosalie, The Paragon, The William Johnson House and Brant-Francis."

Sunday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Writing workshops with handouts. Featuring Will D. Campbell, Arthur Gwynn, Rebecca Wood Adams, Ann Landin and Anne Prichard. All oral presentations are \$5 per day or \$20 for four days. The fifth day's writing workshop is \$15, including lunch, lunches, dinners, tours and other special events extra. For ticket information, call Natchez Box Office, (601) 443-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.

—Compiled by Sarah Sue Goldsmith

Gaines

(Continued from Page 18)

education allowed him to go elsewhere. Faith, religion, faith, didn't survive the university, and nothing took its place. He feels equally incapable of healing Jefferson's acute despair and of answering the open questioning faces of his young students.

"I had these problems when I was growing up," Gaines said. "My uncle, who raised me was a very devout Christian, but I was taken from my Protestant background to a small, Catholic school in Louisiana."

"I didn't fit in with the Catholics here and the Creole boys. I was maybe 12 years old and I thought for a while, 'Why believe in one of these religions, why believe in any religion at all?' Then, when I went to the library, I began to read the novels. I was beginning to say, 'They, I like these guys, I like the way they think. I like the way they question things.'"

Gaines' writing drawn on a deep sense of the world in which he grew up — from the gray, weather-beaten houses to an old woman's black, rimpled hat — and on a lasting wonder at how some people seem the courage to defy white authority, dare take on.

Again and again, the author texts his characters, not unlike the way Ernest Hemingway's books challenge men to show grace under pressure. Is Gaines' novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*, he tells of a group of elderly blacks who finally find the courage to defy white authority. Is In My Father's House, another novel, he confronts the public strength of a Civil Rights leader when he is abandoned.

Late in Miss Jane Pittman, Gaines introduces a character named Janey, a Louisiana toby marked from birth with the responsibility of

being the one. Like Gaines, he is called upon by the elder residents to write letters for them. Like Gaines, he

is shaken by questions that prayers can't fully answer. "I had to make decisions very, very early. You have to make a decision when not to confront a question, when to ask him a question, when to move off a sidewalk, how to do anything," Gaines said.

"I believe in God. I don't know that I believe in the Christian God. I love trees. I love flowers. I love water. I love the ocean. I live near the ocean in San Francisco. I don't want to say that this ocean is God, but that's as much god as the church is God."

And what would his aunt have thought of that? "Ah, there's the point," he said with a laugh. "That's where the conflict comes in."

the sun beams down on dusty, dirty boys who scream and yell and romp and run around and play with sandy, dirty, dirty toys. They scoop the dirt and sand into a mound, the highest slide that's found in all the land.

When "Go" is roared, the trucks so fast they glide and then they play into the mound of sand. But girls don't play with dusty, dirty boys. They like their pants all clean, and "in the pie," and girls won't play with dusty, dirty toys, and girls won't think that boys are sure stink. While neatly building castles under trees, they hope the boys won't give them their disease.

—Terri Hoover Dunham

Paul's Corner uses previously unpublished poems no more than one page, typed or neatly printed. Poems should be submitted one at a time. Unread manuscripts will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Submit to Paul's Corner, Sunday Magazine, P.O. Box 588, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Include your name, address, telephone number and Social Security number.

1993 part 1
page 62

Literary Celebration Has African- American Emphasis



H.J. Knight, III

The rich African-American heritage of the Natchez area during the 19th and 20th centuries will be a major part of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, according to Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Smith is co-chairman of the Celebration with Becky Junkin Nevil of Co-Lin and Gerald Gaumer of the Natchez National Historical Park. The event set for June 2-6, 1993, is co-sponsored by Co-Lin and the Historical Park.

"Several prominent Natchez African-Americans serve on the Celebration's steering committee," Smith said.

"They include Judge Mary Lee Toles, President of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of African-American Culture; George Dunkley, Minority Affairs Director of the Natchez Economic and Community Development Authority; William H. Terrell of the Bluff City Post; Josie Gilchrist Anderson, Vice-President of NAPAC; and Bettye Mullen, director of Student Support Services at Co-Lin."

Theme for the fourth annual conference is "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River."

A series of 16 lectures will take place at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium on Jefferson Street.

Interspersed will be house tours, movies, re-

ceptions, a symphony pops concert and special meals, Smith said.

"Natchez's Own Hilary Jacques Knight, III, a professor of English and a published poet from Tougaloo College, will be one of several African-Americans in the spotlight," Smith said.

"His mother, the late Ordemese Knight, is highly regarded as one of Natchez's outstanding educators."

"Mr. Knight will read from his poetry which was influenced by the river and comment on it," Smith said. Knight's presentation is set for 11 a.m. on June 4.

"Another African-American prominent in the conference is the author Ernest Gaines of Oscar, La., near Natchez,

who is famous for his novel, 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman,'" Smith said. Gaines will present his program at 10:45 a.m. June 5.

"Also on the program is Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin of Cambridge University, England," Smith said.

"She is the author of a brand new book, 'Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-Americans Voices,' which explores the influence of African-Americans on Twain's fiction."

Also of interest to African-Americans is a program on Elizabeth T. Greenfield, a slave born in Natchez who rose to fame as a soprano, Smith said. Billed as the "Black Swan," in 1853 Greenfield gave a command performance for Queen Victoria in London.

At 11:15 a.m. June 3, Dr. David Sansing of the University of Mississippi will discuss the Black Swan Dr. Ellistine Holly, soprano of Jackson State University, will sing selections presented by the Black Swan in London in 1853.

In conjunction with the lectures, the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture will hold an open house June 3 at the NAPAC Museum on Market Street.

"From 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. that day will be general tours," Smith said.

"Then from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m., Judge Toles and her board will host a reception open to the public. This reception will honor Hilary Knight and Governor William Winter, who is master of ceremonies for the Celebration."

Presenting a concert after dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant on June 2 will be additional African-Americans. They are Alvin Shelby and members of the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir.

Serving as lecture chairmen for the conference are still other African-Americans. They are: Toles; Dr. Frances Henderson, director of Alcorn State University's Division of Nursing in Natchez; Theodore "Bubba" West, Natchez Alderman; and Dr. Alferdeen Harrison, professor of history at Jackson State University.

Tickets are \$3 per day for lectures and movies. Meals, receptions, a house tour, a pops concert by

See "CELEBRATION" p. 2



Ernest Gaines



Dr. A. Harrison



Jerry Clower

CELEBRATION, from p. 1

the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and a performance by storyteller Jerry Clower on June 5 are low cost.

All tickets are available from Natchez Box Office, (601) 443-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.

1993 part 1
page 63

A new angle on literary fest

The rich African-American heritage of the Natchez area during the 19th and 20th centuries will be a major part of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration. The event's theme is "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River."

All of us at the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture urge everyone to attend this annual event, which is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park.

The celebration's dates are Wednesday through Saturday, with all lectures at the Natchez City Auditorium.

Wayns African-Americans are involved with the celebration are as follows:

■ Several serve with me on the celebration's steering committee, along with co-chairmen Gerry Gaumer of the Historical Park and Becky Nevill and Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin.

They include Josie-Gilchrist Anderson, vice president of NAPAC; William Terrell of the Bluff City Post; and Bettye Mullen, director of student support services at Co-Lin.

■ Natchez's own Hillery Jacques Knight III, a professor of English and a published poet from Tougaloo College, will be one of several African-Americans in the spotlight. His mother, the late Ordemese Knight, is highly regarded as one of Natchez's outstanding educators.

Mr. Knight will read from his poetry, which was influenced by the river, and comment on it.



Top of the Morning

MARY TOLES
Natchez resident

His presentation is set for 11 a.m. Friday.

■ Another African-American prominent in the conference is the author Ernest Gaines of Oscar, La., near Natchez, who is famous for his novel, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman." Mr. Gaines will present his program at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday.

■ Also on the program is Dr. Shelly Fisher Fishkin of Cambridge University, England. She is the author of a brand-new book, "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," which explores the influence of African-Americans on Twain's fiction.

■ Also of interest to African-Americans is a program on Elizabeth T. Greenfield, a slave born in Natchez who rose to fame as a soprano. Billed as "The Black Swan," in 1853 Greenfield gave a command performance for Queen Victoria in London.

At 11:15 a.m. Thursday, Dr. David Sansing of The University of Mississippi will discuss the Black Swan. Dr. Ernestine Holly, soprano of Jackson State University, will sing selections presented by the Black Swan in London in

1853.

■ In conjunction with the lectures, NAPAC will hold an open house June 3 at the NAPAC Museum on Market Street.

From 4:30 to 6 p.m. that day will be general tours. Then, from 6 to 7 p.m., we will host a reception open to the public. This reception will honor Hillery Knight and former Gov. William Winter, who is master of ceremonies for the celebration. We invite everyone to attend.

■ Presenting a concert after dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant on Wednesday will be additional African-Americans. They are Alvin Shelby and the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir.

■ Serving as lecture chairmen for the conference are still other African-Americans. They are Dr. Frances Henderson, director of Alcorn State University's Division of Nursing in Natchez; Theodore "Bubber" West, Natchez alderman; Dr. Alferdeen Harrison, professor of history at Jackson State University; and myself.

Tickets for the celebration are just \$5 per day for lectures and movies. Meals, receptions, a house tour, a pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and a performance by storyteller Jerry Clower on Saturday are low cost.

All tickets are available from Natchez Box Office, 445-0353, or 1-800-862-3259. See you there.

Judge Mary Toles is president of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American History.

1993 part 1
page 64

1993 part 1
page 65



SCETC Journal

Spring 1993
Volume XXVI, Number 1

THE 1993 NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

an award-winning annual extravaganza

presents

THE THREE R'S: READING', 'RITING', AND THE RIVER

Wednesday-Sunday, June 2-6, 1993

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

- * Lectures and other presentations about the literature, history, and culture of the Lower Mississippi River by 15 internationally known authors, scholars, and entertainers including Dr. Robert V. Remini, Elizabeth Spencer, Willie Morris, Dr. William Ferris, Ernest Gaines, Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Dr. William S. Coker, and Jerry Clower
- * Tours of historic riverside homes and sites
- * A mini film festival of river-related movies
- * Exhibits, music, storytelling, and entertainments
- * Re-enactment of the Unikon occupation of Natchez during the Civil War
- * Special meals, parties, and fun

All on the irresistible theme of

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For information, Write
Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 894, Natchez, MS 39121
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Historic

Natchez
on the Mississippi



Tourism Highlights



P.O. Box 1485 • Natchez, MS 39121

May 1993 • Newsletter

2-6

The Natchez Literary Celebration Presents "The Three R'S - Readin', 'Ritin' and the River".*

1993 part 1
page 66

Historic

Tourists guide to . . .

Natchez

May 1993

A monthly reader service of The Natchez Democrat

Natchez, Miss.

■ JUNE will kick off a glorious celebration of the Mississippi River when the Natchez Literary Celebration gets under way during the first week of June.

The literary event combines scholarly lectures with lighter entertainment and tours of some of the area's historic sites. Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park, the celebration is an international event.

This year the celebration will carry out the theme, "Readin', Writin' and the River," a salute to the literature and arts inspired by the Mississippi River. The June 2-7 event will feature a concert of Mississippi River tunes by the Mississippi Pops Symphony Orchestra.

Information about tickets is available at 1-800-647-6724 or, locally, 442-9111. Address correspondence to Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 894, Natchez, Miss. 39121-0894.

1993 part 1
page 67

ARTICLES

Chair's Note by Dick Harrington	2
On Agnosticism, Dick Harrington, and Stomach Flu	3
by Bonnie Pugin	46
Carrie Russell Retires	48
Nelson Receives YETC's Best Article Award	49
College Section Proposals for the Two-Year College Teacher	50
by Neil A. W. NWP and the Two-Year College Instructor	51
by Rich Raymond	51

1993 Conference

Conference Review by Tamara Baxter	5
Eric Hibbsen Receives Highest Honor SCETC Cowan Award	13
by Dick Harrington	17
Recorder's Summaries	17
Pictorial Review	38

Poetry

Decisions and Revisions by Harry Moore	32
by Harry Moore	32
Counting Daddy Home by Tamara Baxter	33
Vindicated by Tamara Baxter	34
Prose Poem 1 by Steve West	35
Prose Poem 2 by Steve West	35
Ray's Religion by Martha Reynolds	36
Remembering Being by Judy L. Stokes	37

1994 Conference

Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates	49
Program Proposal	54

Announcements

Salute to the "Ten Plus" SCETC Campuses	8
Brainstorming	16
ITC Application	52
The 1993 Naïches Literary Celebration	53

SCETC Reports

Between the Lines by Pelly Marshall	56
Financial Report by Louise White	70
REC Directory	72

1993 part 1
page 68

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On Agnosticism Dick Harrington and Stomach Flu

by Bonnie
'92-'93

Dick Harrington deserves not only my heartfelt thanks but the thanks of every SCETC member who attended the Chattanooga conference for his willingness to accept the challenge of chairing the conference at literally the last moment, and then performing masterfully. (I am teetering on embracing agnosticism in the wake of being laid low by the kind of flu which leaves one no dignity at a time when I had anticipated being a Star.)

All of the other conference leaders deserve accolades as well. From all reports, Amanda Wynn and Don Andrews not only planned well but executed well, dealing confidently with absences due to the snow and to illnesses. I heard glowing reports about the speakers, the preference and concurrent sessions, the Beale Smith extravaganza, and Amanda's "high tea" with its savvy shewassing of the publishers. Everything from Dick's Cowan Award display to the food got high marks.

My congratulations to Georgia Newman, re-elected to the REC, and to Joe Thwaitt, a "new" REC member who served six years on the REC as Journal editor. Georgia is an indefatigable membership chair who has assembled an exceptionally

talented group of representatives. Watch them that elusive 600-member mark Joe is one of the finest human alive, characterized by conscientiousness, accuracy integrity. Congrats also to our state reps: Florida - Don Thwaitt, Valencia Community College; Kentucky - Patricia Blaine of Paducah Community College. Don has a malnourish of the organization long as I can remember; he calls all. Patricia will be in her first leadership role, but she comes touted.

Finally, I want to express confidence in Dick Harrington's new role as Chair. Aware that both perpetually hungry for both the conference and perpetually anxious that my absence would in some catastrophe (is it all good news when things go quiet without one?), Dick called me from Chattanooga. During conversations, I became convinced that Dick was in the best position to move into the Chair's role for '94. His on-site management of '93 conference was deemed successful by everyone who met me during the conference; no several REC business issues



Country Roads

ADVENTURES CLOSE TO HOME



May 1993

April 23 - 25
Pointe Coupee Antique
Show & Sale
New Roads, Louisiana

Throughout May
The Natchez Opera
Festival
Natchez, Mississippi

June 2 - 6
The Natchez Literary
Celebration
Natchez, Mississippi

BETWEEN NATCHEZ & BATON ROUGE

1993 part 1
page 69



THE THREE R'S --- READIN', RITIN' AND THE RIVER THE NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

by Anne Butler

The romance of Ol' Man River down through the ages is the unifying theme of this year's Natchez Literary Celebration, a week-long affirmation of the river's impact on the heritage and culture of Natchez and the entire Lower Mississippi River Valley.

Set in Natchez from June 2 through June 6, this year's gathering features everything from music to movies, from history to rollicking humor, from poetry to preservation, and highlights a number of nationally known personages like authors Willie Morris, Ernest Gaines, and homegrown storyteller Jerry Clower.

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College with the National Park Service's Natchez Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway, the conference is chaired as usual by a proven pair of popular faculty members from the college, the very capable Carolyn Vance Smith and Becky Junkin Nevill, in cooperation with Gerald Gaumer, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services for the historical park. The Honorable William F. Winter, former governor and head of the board of trustees for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, will again serve as director of proceedings.

Most activities take place in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium on Jefferson Street. Wednesday's activities include a welcome by the president of Copiah-Lincoln, and lectures on "The Heritage of the Mississippi River" by John Hoesterey who leads the US Department of Interior's Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project, and "Spaniards, Frenchmen and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519 - 1763" by Dr. William Coker of the University of West Florida. The premiere of a Mississippi Educational Television documentary called "Return to the River" is followed by a gala reception at Stanton Hall and dinner at the Carriage House.

On Thursday, the lectures include "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi" by Dr. Charles Lowery of Mississippi State, "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River" by eminent historian Dr. Robert V. Remini of the University of Chicago, "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez" by Dr. David Sansing of the University of Mississippi, and "The Mississippi River and the Civil War" by US Department of the Interior historian Terrence Winschel of Vicksburg National Military Park.

Thursday also features a showing of the movie "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and related discussion led by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp of Centre College, and Thursday evening's reception at the Ramada Hilltop honors top humanities scholars from the state's public two-year colleges. On Friday Dr. Thomas Gandy of Natchez shares his extensive knowledge and unmatched collection of historic photographs in the steamboatin' session called "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam." Other lecture topics include "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices" by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin of Cambridge University in England, "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation" by Hillery Jacque Knight III of Tougaloo College, and "The Rivers in My Life" by native son and nationally recognized author Willie Morris. There will be a showing of the movie based on Morris' *Good Ol' Boy*.

1993 part 1
page 70

■ The related Mississippi Writers Conference on June 6 will boost beginners.

By Linda Temple
Special to The Clarion-Ledger

BUDDING writers can learn to blossom at the sixth annual Mississippi Writers Conference, to be held in conjunction with the Natchez Literary Celebration on June 6.

The free, one-day workshop, sponsored by the Mississippi Writers Association, is moving to Natchez from its Jackson locale to bring participants closer to the larger conference and its convergence of scholars.

"Our goal is to nurture and educate writers, and by writers, we're not talking about people who are already established," said Jo Barksdale, president of the writers organization.

"We're talking about the person who enjoys writing but thinks they can never be a commercial success."

Millsaps College writing instructor Rebecca Hood-Adams will open the conference at 9 a.m. with *Mining Your Memories*, followed at 10:30 a.m. by JoAnne Prichard, executive editor of the University Press of Mississippi, who will discuss whether editors and publishers influence what American writers write.

See WRITERS, 4F

Writers

From 1F

Award-winning author Will Campbell will address the crowd at a champagne brunch (\$15) from 11:30-1 p.m. with insights about his newest book, *Providence*, followed at 1 p.m. by tips on the high-interest area of children's literature from Anne Lundin, former reference librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi's deGrummond Children's Research Library.

At 2 p.m., Louisiana State University English professor Peggy Prenshaw will present *The Art and Artifice of the Interview*, and at 3 p.m., Mississippi State University history professor Charles Lowery will discuss writing family histories. Campbell returns to the podium for a question-and-answer session from 4-5 p.m.

Space is limited to 200 for the workshop and 80 for the brunch, which requires reservations by noon Saturday. All events take place in the ballroom of the Best Western River Park Hotel in Natchez.

For details, call 1-800-862-3253.

1993 part 1
page 71

LITERATURE

RITIN' ON THE RIVER



Will Campbell



Elizabeth Spencer



Jerry Clower



Willie Morris

■ The Natchez Literary Celebration will probe the mystique of the Mississippi.

By Linda Temple
Specialist to The Clarion-Ledger

CELEBRATED sovereign of riverboats and rafts: Fount of fact and fable. Father of waters. For centuries, writers, composers and storytellers have found their muse in the muddy, mighty Mississippi.

The fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration will explore the river's powerful influence with 16 noted authors and scholars, Wednesday-June 6 at Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 207 Jefferson St.

The *Three R's: Reads, Rites and the River* is the theme for the series of public lectures and events organized by co-sponsoring Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez Historical Park, with funding from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Since 1989, the conference has built a burgeoning following, presiding its move from the cozy Hotel Hotel, where more than 2,500 convened last year, to the more expansive auditorium.

"We are waking up dramatically to the fact that our part of America is fascinating to the rest of the United States and abroad," said Carolyn Vance Smith, co-chairman of the event and coordinator of

Copiah-Lincoln's English department.

"It tells us that there are plenty of people, old and young, who like to read, and to go where people talk about what they've read," Smith said. "People are genuinely thirsting for meaningful information."

Scattered among the visiting authors and academicians will be Mississippi writers: Willie Morris, Elizabeth Spencer, Will Campbell and raconteur Jerry Clower, who'll tell *Stories From Home* from the book of the same name Saturday evening.

The focal point of the discussions is the Mississippi River, upon whose waters have created the literary inventions of generations of writers.

Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, criticized by some for its often pejorative depictions of blacks, gets a new interpretation from Cambridge University visiting fellow Shelley Fisher Fishkin during her lecture, *Was Huck Black?* Mark Twain and African-American Voices, at 10 a.m. Friday.

Several conference topics deal with the history of Southern blacks. Smith noted, "Because a great deal of African-American culture is inextricably interwoven with the history of the Mississippi River."

The influences of English, French and Spanish settlers will also be explored, along with the steamboat and Civil War eras.

New this year is a mini-film festival facilitated by Charles Vahlkamp, professor of American Film Studies at Centre Col-

lege in Darroville, Ky.

Participants will view and discuss the film version of Ernest Gaines' book *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, the 1983 *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* movie with Patrick Day as Huck, the made-for-TV movie based on Willie Morris' *Good Old Boy* and excerpts from a Mississippi ETV documentary in progress, *Return to the River*.

The conference ends June 6 with an all-day writers workshop with Campbell, Millsaps College writing instructor Rebecca Hood-Adams and University of Mississippi Press editor JoAnne Pritchard.

Each day of the conference, which may be attended in whole or part, features a combination of lectures, films, meals, musical entertainment and receptions with participating scholars and authors.

Meals between are included in the \$5 per day registration fee. Special events, priced from \$1.50-\$10, range from a dinner and gospel concert at Starline Hall to a performance of river-inspired music by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra.

Other events tied to the celebration are free, including half-a-dozen downtown art and photographic exhibits and a two-day re-creation of a Civil War encampment on the grounds of Melrose mansion.

For a schedule of events or to order tickets, call the Natchez Box Office at 1-800-862-3259.

THE CLARION-LEDGER ■ JACKSON, MISS

1993 part 1
page 72

The Natchez Democrat

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1993

Serving Natchez, Vidalia and the Miss-Lou

Natchez, Miss.

50 CENTS

Readin', 'Ritin' and the River highlight annual literary festival

Lectures, concerts, free events included in activities this week

■ Related column, 4A.
By STACY GRANING
The Natchez Democrat

Storyteller Jerry Clower will headline Saturday's activities as part of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

The event, which draws scholars and literary fans from throughout the world to Natchez, begins Wednesday and continues through Sunday.

"Jerry Clower is America's top humorist and he's from Liberty," said Carolyn Vance Smith, co-chairman of the annual festival. "He will perform at the Natchez City Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Saturday, and tickets are only \$7.50 each."

Smith represents Copiah-Lincoln Community College, which co-sponsors the annual festival with the Natchez National Historical Park. Co-chairmen are Becky Nevill of Co-Lin and Gerry Gaumer of the park.

The theme for this year's festival is "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin' and the 'River.'" The celebration will include many lectures, tours, entertainments, concerts, meals and special events saluting the Mississippi River and its influence on literature, history and culture of Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

"Tickets for the celebration are \$5 per day for lec-

tures at the Natchez City Auditorium," Smith said. "Tickets for other activities range from \$5 to \$15, and all are available at Natchez Box Office or at the door."

In addition to Clower's performance, conference participants will include a pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra at 7 p.m. Friday. "The concert will be entitled 'Music of the Mississippi and Other Rivers,' and tickets are only \$5," Smith said.

A "Riverfront Tour of Buildings" will take place from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Saturday. "Buildings on tour are The Parsonage, Rosalie, Evans-Bontura and the Train Station," Smith said. "And refreshments will be served." Tickets for the tour are \$15 each.

"Also, a public reception honoring outstanding humanities students and faculty members in Mississippi's community colleges will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday on the terrace at the Ramada Hilltop Inn," Smith said. "Music will be by the Great River Road Revue, and tickets are \$5 each."

In addition to the ticketed events, the festival will offer several free activities, including:

■ "Faces and Phases of the River," a guided walking tour along the Natchez bluff by national park rangers, June Wednesday through Friday.

■ "The Mighty Mississippi," an exhibit of winning entries in a regional art contest at Judge George W. Armstrong Library, Wednesday through Sunday.

■ "Steamboating in Style," a photograph exhibit at Historic Jefferson College by the Mississippi

See LITERARY, Page 8A

1993 part 1
page 73

The Miss-Lou

Literary

Continued from Page 1A

Department of Archives and History, Wednesday through Sunday.

■ "The Natchez Trace," an exhibit at City Auditorium by the Natchez Trace Parkway, Wednesday through Sunday.

■ "The Historic Natchez Collection," an exhibit of reproduction furniture and accessories at the Historic Natchez Foundation on South Commerce Street, Wednesday through Sunday.

■ "Afro-American Life in Natchez," an exhibit at the Natchez Afro-American Museum by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, Thursday.

■ Living history enactment of the Union Army's occupation of Natchez, 1863-65, on the grounds of Melrose, Saturday and Sunday.

■ An all-day workshop on Archival material from Seville, Spain, about Spanish Natchez, led by Dr. Douglas Inglis of Seville, an expert on Spanish Natchez. The workshop will be today at the Judge George W. Armstrong Public Library.

■ A free public reception honoring the poet Hillery Jacque Knight III of Tougaloo College and former Gov. William Winter of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will be from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the museum of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture.

■ "And three free movies will be shown and discussed during the celebration," Smith said. "They are 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' at 3:15 p.m. Thursday; 'Good Old Boy' at 3:15 p.m. Friday; and 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman' at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Discussion after the films will be led by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp of Centre College in Danville, Ky." The films will be shown at the City Auditorium.

The lectures will be, in Wednesday and continue through Saturday at the auditorium. "All oral presentations except for the Clower presentation are open on a space-available basis, with all tickets costing \$5," Smith said. "Lectures are financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council."

Lectures are as follows:

■ "The Heritage of the Mississippi River," by John Hoesterey, leader of the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.

■ "Spaniards, Frenchmen and the Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763," by Dr. William S. Coker, professor of history emeritus at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Wednesday, 2:45 p.m.

■ "Language without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," by Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the department of history at Mississippi State University, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Administering Spanish Natchez: An 18th-Century River Town," by Dr. Douglas Inglis of



Hoesterey



Prenshaw



Coker



Morris



Vahlkamp



Spencer



Holly



Lowery



Ferris



Winschel



Gaines



Fishkin



Gandy



Winter



Knight



Clower

Seville, Spain, Thursday, 10 a.m. Inglis is an expert on Spanish Natchez.

■ "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," by Dr. David G. Sansing, professor of history at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Thursday, 11:15 a.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," by Terrence Winschel, historian with the Vicksburg National Military Park, Thursday, 2 p.m.

■ "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," the movie, with discussion led by Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, professor of American Film Studies at Centre College in Danville, Ky., Thursday, 3:15 p.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam," by Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, author and historian of Natchez, Friday, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Was Huck Black? Mark

Twain and African-American Voices," by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, visiting fellow at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England, Friday, 10 a.m.

■ "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," by Hillery Jacque Knight III, associate professor of English at Tougaloo College, Friday, 11 a.m.

■ "The Rivers in My Life," by Willie Morris, Mississippi author, Friday, 2 p.m.

■ "Good Ol' Boy," a movie based on a Willie Morris book, with a discussion led by Dr. Vahlkamp, Friday, 3:15 p.m.

■ "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," by Dr. Peggy W. Prenshaw, professor of English at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Fort Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary," by Elizabeth Spencer, writer-in-residence at the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill, Saturday, 9:15 a.m. ■ "Of Men and Rivers," by Ernest Gaines, writer-in-residence at University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette, Saturday, 10:45 a.m.

■ "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," a movie based on the Ernest Gaines novel with a discussion led by Dr. Vahlkamp.

Tickets for all events are available at Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264 in Natchez. The telephone number at Natchez Box Office is 445-0353.

Southwest Miss.

Electric Power Association



A re-enactment of the Federal occupation of Natchez during the Civil War will take place June 5-6 as part of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration. Batteries of Union artillery, such as the one shown here, will join people portraying civilians and pardoned Confederate soldiers. The free event will take place on the grounds of historic Melrose all day both days.

Readin', Ritin', and the River...

Natchez event celebrates river's literary heritage

What does Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, one of the world's leading authorities on Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn, have in common with Mississippi's nationally known yarn spinner, Jerry Clower?

Why, Ol' Man River and the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, of course!

The annual award-winning conference is June 2-6 in Natchez. The conference theme is "The Three R's: Readin', Ritin', and the River."

Sixteen noted authors, scholars and entertainers will be featured during the conference, sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park. It is partially funded by the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Mississippi Humanities Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

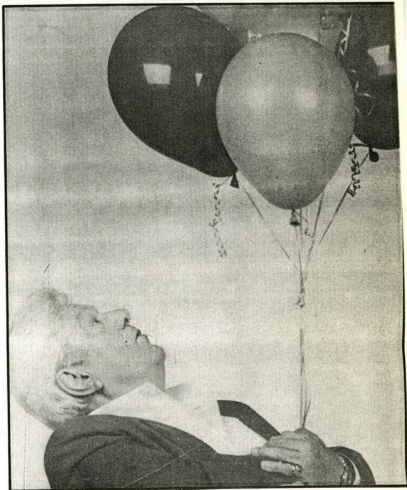
Speakers and their topics range from Dr. Fishkin's newly released theory, "Was



Huck Really Black?" to Jerry Clower's "Stories from Home."

Clower will appear June 5 at 7 p.m. at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium.

1993 part 1
page 75



Renowned Mississippi comedian Jerry Clower will present "Stories from Home" as the grand finale of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration. See Clower at 7 p.m. June 5 at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$7.50 and are available from the Natchez Box Office, (601) 445-0353.

"Jerry Clower is so popular that I suggest everyone get tickets early," says Stuart Johnson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park. Johnson is co-chair of the celebration with Becky Junkin Nevill and Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln.

A sampling of speakers and topics at the conference include:

- The author Willie Morris of Jackson, "Rivers in My Life."
- The author Elizabeth Spencer, The University of North Carolina, "Port Claiborne Near the River."
- The poet Hillery Jacques Knight III, Tougaloo College, "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation."
- Dr. William Ferris, The University of Mississippi, "Storytelling Along the River

Road."

- Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, Centre College, Danville, Ky., discussing the films "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "Good 'Ol Boy."

In addition to lectures and presentations will be a number of river-related events. These include special meals, tours of homes near the river, music by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra, the Holy Family Gospel Choir and the River Road Revue, a two-day re-enactment of the Union occupation of Natchez (1863-65), art exhibits and film festival.

Cost of lectures is \$20 for four days or \$5 per day, with meals and special events optional at low cost. For tickets, call the Natchez Box Office at (601) 445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.

1993 part 1
page 76

Editorials

Literary event offers treat for everyone

Natchez welcomes dignitaries and other guests today as they arrive for the annual Literary Celebration which gets under way a little past lunchtime.

The four-day event, with interesting seminars both at the beginning and at the end of the lecture series, will focus on something we Natchez-area people think we know well — the Mississippi River.

However, with its theme of "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River," the celebration will offer information, entertainment and scholarly thought that most of us never have pondered.

The event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Natchez National Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway. Tickets to the lectures and other events are reasonably priced, and one look at the lineup of speakers reveals something for every taste, from movies to folk humor to highbrow investigation of literary themes.

The celebration is one of the many events throughout the year that help to make Natchez a special place to live and to visit. It is an opportunity people in many other small towns would envy.

Take a look at the schedule and mark your calendars for the coming few days. Get out and enjoy the Natchez Literary Celebration.

1993 part 1
page 77

Year-long planning rewarded, literary celebration official says

■ Teachers, students honored, 3A
By JOAN GANDY

The Natchez Democrat

A year of planning paid off when the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration opened on Wednesday, a co-chairman of the event said.

"Organization and a lot of hard work" led to a successful day at Natchez's City Auditorium, said Becky Junkin Nevill of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, who chairs the annual event along with Carolyn Vance Smith, also of CoLin, and Gerald Gaumer of the Natchez National Historical Park.

Nevill stood in the foyer of the Jefferson Street auditorium on Wednesday, alert to greeting seminar guests as they came into the building.

As the second lecturer of the day wound up his speech, other volunteers milled about the lobby, waiting to usher participants to seats inside the auditorium and keeping



Dr. William S. Coker

coffee hot and homemade cookies spread on plates for intermission.

The crowd of several hundred listened attentively as Dr. William S. Coker of the University of West Florida charted numerous expedi-

tions made by Spanish, French and English explorers on the Mississippi River between 1519 and 1763.

Coker wove into the lecture stories of men whose names now are legend in early Mississippi history — DeSoto, LaSalle, Marquette and Joliet — and equally well known places, such as English Turn, where in 1699 Frenchmen under Bienville met an English galley and bluffed the British soldiers into turning around by saying France already had established a settlement upriver.

Seeking Mexican silver mines or passages to the Orient, early explorers in nearly every instance drove their little bands in search of some economic reward, Coker said.

Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette pushed down the Mississippi from Canada despite warnings of "demons on the river

See PLANNING, Page 3A

Planning

Continued from Page 1A

that would devour them," Coker said. "They were told even the heat might kill them."

Controversies and conflicts followed the Europeans as they explored the Mississippi until at last in 1810 the United States gained control of both sides of the river, he said.

Coker, like other lecturers, fashioned his program from the literary celebration's theme, "The Three R's: Readin', 'Riting' and the River."

Preceding Coker was John W. Hoestery, who described a program that would establish a Mississippi River National Heritage Corridor. Hoestery is a geographer with the National Park Service and directs the heritage corridor project.

Following Coker's presentation, Dr. Olon Ray introduced "Return to

the River," a Mississippi Educational Television documentary featuring Southern writers, musicians and scholars. Ray is chairman of the board for the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television.

More lectures continue at the auditorium today, beginning with Dr. Charles Lowery of Mississippi State University at 8:30 a.m. Lowery's topic is "Language without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales on the Mississippi."

At 10 a.m. today Dr. G. Douglas Inglis of Seville, Spain, will deliver his lecture, "Administering Spanish Natchez: A Late 18th-Century Town."

Dr. David Sansing of the University of Mississippi will present, "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," at 11:15 a.m.

At 2 p.m., Terrence Winschel of the National Park Service will present, "The Mississippi River and the Civil War."

1993 part 1
page 78

1993 NLC OFFERS A VARIETY OF EVENTS

by Barbara Potter

The upcoming Natchez Literary Celebration aims to please, with events to spark everyone's interest. From humorist Jerry Clower to a reception at the newly restored antebellum mansion Choctaw, the fourth annual celebration, taking place June 2-6, offers entertainments that should draw its largest crowd ever.

Prices are affordable: \$5 buys an entire day of speaker presentations. Luncheons, dinners, tours and receptions need separate tickets. There are also a number of free events.

Tickets to most activities are still available, due to moving to larger accommodations this year so more people can attend. Headquarters and most of the presentations are at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 207 Jefferson Street.

Tickets may be purchased in the auditorium lobby beginning Wednesday, June 2, or in advance from Natchez Box Office (601 445-0353). Brochures with complete listings, including free events and prices, are also available from Natchez Box Office, 104 South Wall Street.

This year's unifying theme for the celebration is the Mighty Mississippi - a timeless river so important throughout history.

Included in the four-day lineup are famous authors: Ernest Gaines (A Lesson Before Dying, The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman), Willie Morris (New York Days, Good Old Boy), Elizabeth Spencer (Light in the Piazza), and others.

There are movies, a concert, tours of historic homes along the bluff, special luncheons and receptions. There are historians: Dr. Douglas Inglis, Dr. Thomas Gandy, Dr. David Saming, Dr. William Coker and others.

Free entertainments include guided walking tours along the bluff, art and photograph exhibits, African-American cultural exhibit, Natchez Trace exhibit, Civil War Living History Reenactments and tours of Melrose.

Attending some or all of the events is a good way to soak up some culture and have some fun at the same time. So, "Come on out to 'Readin', 'Ritin' and the River,'" urge the NLC sponsors, Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway.



Humorist Jerry Clower entertains at NLC's Grand Parade on Saturday night.

1993 part 1
page 79

In this issue...

Your response	4
Father's Day	5
..a photo feature	
Natchez Literary Celebration	8
by Barbara Potter	
Adams County Sheriff's Rodeo	10
Scenes from The Opera	11
Brides and Grooms	12
June Victorian Tour	21
Outstanding Natchezian	26
Guest Commentary	29
New Arrivals	30

Natchez Digest

Community Calendar Events, News and More

P. O. Box 834
Natchez, MS 39001

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The Natchez Literary Celebration presents The Three R's



See complete schedule of events on page 9 of this issue of The Natchez Digest.

Beginning June 2 tickets available at Natchez City Auditorium.



For reservations / ticket information
call

(601) 445-0353 or (800) 862-3259

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln
Community College and the
National Park Service

Page 12 ■ June 1993 - The Natchez Digest

1993 print
page 50

Schedule for the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration:

Wednesday, June 2

- 1:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions, Dr. Billy B. Thames, Copiah-Lincoln Community College
- 1:15 "The Heritage of the Mississippi River," John Hosterey, National Park Service, Denver
- 2:15 Refreshments
- 2:45 "Spaniards, Frenchmen and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763," Dr. William Coker, University of West Florida
- 5:00 "Return to the River," highlights of an educational television documentary
- 6:45 Gala Reception honoring ETV dignitaries, Stanton Hall (\$5 ticket needed)
- 8:00 Dinner, Carriage House Restaurant, with concert by Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir (\$15 ticket needed)

Thursday, June 3

- 8:30 a.m. "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," Dr. Charles Lowery, Mississippi State University
- 9:30 Refreshments
- 10:00 "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River," Dr. Robert Remini, University of Illinois
- 11:15 "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," Dr. David Sansing, The University of Mississippi
- 12:30 Luncheon, The Natchez Eola Hotel, with Musical Selections of "The Black Swan" (\$10 ticket needed)
- 2:00 "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," Terrence Winschel, National Park Service, Vicksburg
- 3:00 Refreshments
- 3:15 "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," movie based on the novel by Mark Twain, with discussion by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp, Centre College
- 6:30-8:00 Reception, Ramada Hilltop Inn, honoring outstanding humanities scholars from Mississippi's public two-year colleges, with music by The Great River Road Revue (\$5 ticket needed)

Friday, June 4

- 8:30 a.m. "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam," Dr. Thomas Gandy, Natchez
- 9:30 Refreshments
- 10:00 "Was Buck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," Dr. Shelley Fishkin, Cambridge University
- 11:00 "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," author Hillery Jacque Knight, Tougaloo College
- 12:15 p.m. Victorian Luncheon, Magnolia Hall (\$10 ticket needed)
- 2:00 "The Rivers in My Life," author Willie Morris, Jackson
- 3:00 Popcorn and soft drinks
- 3:15 "Good Old Boy," movie filmed in Natchez, based on Morris' book, with discussion by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 7:00-8:00 "The Music of the Mississippi," a concert by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra (\$5 ticket needed)

Saturday, June 5

- 8:30 a.m. "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," Dr. Peggy Preshaw, Louisiana State University
- 9:15 "Port Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary," author Elizabeth Spencer, Writer-in-Residence, The University of North Carolina
- 10:00 Booksigning party honoring all speakers
- 10:45 "Of Men and Rivers," author Ernest Gaines, Writer-in-Residence, The University of Southwestern Louisiana
- 1:00 p.m. "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," movie based on Gaines' novel, with discussion by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 4:00-6:00 Tour, with refreshments, of historic structures along the bluff: Rosalie, The Parsonage, Evans-Bontura, Broadway Street Train Station (\$15 ticket needed)
- 7:00 "Storytelling Along the River Road," Dr. William Ferris, The University of Mississippi, and humorist Jerry Clower (\$7.50 ticket needed)
- 8:15 "Open House on the River Road," reception at Choctaw, honoring all speakers; also autographing books and tapes by Jerry Clower (\$2.50 ticket needed)

Sunday, June 6

- 9:00-5:00 p.m. Writing Workshops sponsored by Mississippi Writers Association, Best Western River Park Hotel (Luncheon costs \$15, ticket needed)

1993 part 1
page 81



The Place to Be

THIS WEEK

COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE • NATCHEZ CAMPUS • NATCHEZ, MS 39120

VOL. XVII, NO. 35 Summer Semester

Carolyn Vance Smith, Editor

June 7-18, 1993

WELCOME TO SUMMER SEMESTER AT CO-LIN!

A big welcome goes to all students enrolled in Co-Lin Natchez's 1993 summer term.

Classes will be held in three sessions. They include one eight-week evening session, with classes meeting twice each week June 7-July 29. Two four-week daytime sessions will also take place, with classes meeting June 7-July 1 for the first session and July 6-30 for the second session.

Registration for the second daytime session is currently in progress in the Admissions Office, according to Director of Admissions Sandra Davidson.

LIBRARY HOURS STATED

The Co-Lin Natchez library will be open throughout the summer term as follows:

- * Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
- * Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

A.C.T. TO BE GIVEN JUNE 12

The American College Test will be administered Saturday, June 12, at 8 a.m. at Co-Lin's vocational-technical campus on Beltline Road. About 230 students have registered for this test, according to Director of Admissions Sandra Davidson. "Examinees should bring with them their admission ticket, photo-identification and two or more soft-lead pencils," she said.

BOOKSTORE HOURS SET THIS WEEK

The Co-Lin Natchez bookstore will be open for evening students to buy books on Monday and Tuesday, June 7-8, from 6 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

MC LEMORE TO ATTEND STATE MEETING

Librarian Joan McLemore will attend a statewide Delta Kappa Gamma seminar at Lake Tiaik o'Khata near Louisville, Miss., June 16-18.

1993 NLC RECEIVES HIGH PRAISE

The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, sponsored by Co-Lin and the National Park Service June 2-6, has received high praise from many of those attending.

"The Literary Celebration is a truly remarkable event," wrote Elbert R. Hilliard, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. "Co-Lin is to be commended for having originated and successfully implemented this magnificent program."

Also praising the event was Dean Travis Thornton of Co-Lin. "I thought it was well received," he said. "I enjoyed it. I was sorry I missed some of it because I was involved in summer school registration.

"It's tremendous that as small as we are we can be diversified enough to do several things simultaneously. It's a tribute to the faculty and staff, for it took a lot of extra effort on many people's part," he said.

"We always appreciate the help and contributions of people outside the college (for the NLC). They provided housing for the speakers, were ushers and helped in numerous ways.

"In many respects it was a total community effort -- which it takes to do something of this magnitude."

Total numbers of those attending the conference have not been tallied, but officials say well over 2,000 people attended all or part of the conference.

"Several hundred people attended the firing demonstrations held in conjunction with the Civil War re-enactment at Melrose, and more than 400 toured the mansion itself," said NLC co-chairman Gerry Gaumer of the Natchez National Historical Park. "There is no way to know how many more just visited the site and the re-enactors.

"Add those attending the lectures, the concert, the Jerry Clower performance, the Spanish archives workshop, the writing workshop and the four-house tour, as well as those participating in the art contest, the exhibits and the walking tours, and you've got more than 2,000 individuals who were reached by the Literary Celebration," he said. "We are very pleased with attendance this year."

OVER

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OVER

**Congratulations to
organizers of the 1993
Natchez Literary Celebration
for a successful program of
unparalleled quality and variety**

1993 part 1
page 84

magazine

May 30 1993

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Miss Cammie & Mr. Dang

Teaching English to children

SIDE: BRLT nominees, Backpacking with children, Artist's colorful imagination, Ernest Gaines

1993 part 1
page 55

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The Natchez Digest

Community Currents, Gossip, Faces and Places

FALL 1993



Ellen Jacoby Gruber

Nicole Horn

Woody Townsend

Gaston Carby

1993 part 1
page 36

Spanish Records

Another computer, also a gift from the Natchez Historical Society last year, is located in the library's genealogy area. This computer is able to give map information on Spanish land grants. It has a plotter attached, which is used to put map sections in, so users can look up where specific tracts of land were located in Adams County.

At present, the computer is being called "Doug's Computer," in honor of Dr. Douglas Inglis of Seville, Spain. Dr. Inglis arrived in Natchez in June to enter his research of early Natchez records kept by Spanish officials. After he programs his data into the computer, the "Colonial Natchez Database" will be accessible by library patrons.



Sam Jones and
Louis DeVries
demonstrate
their new
computer.

Photo by
Barbara Potter

1993 part 1
page 87

New Library Equipment Aids Historians and Genealogists

Lots of good things are happening at the Armstrong Public Library these days. It's certainly worth a trip to check out all the improvements.

Library director Donna Janky said special thanks go to the organizations who donated some ultramodern research aids. "The new computers and software are really going to benefit history lovers and genealogy buffs."

History Scanner

The CD Optical Reader, the newest library computer and a gift from the Natchez Historical Society, is like a huge filing system, she said. When its program is pulled up, the computer screen resembles the Jeopardy Game Show categories on TV.

The computer, nicknamed "Alvin" by Sam Jones, Circulation Clerk, "because it sounds like a chipmunk," scans the information from pages fed into it - even yellowed, almost illegible pages. Alvin stores the information in its memory and can print out a very legible copy on its laser printer.

"We are the first library in Mississippi to have this advanced equipment," Janky said. "The CD RAM space is divided into window sections, so you can have subheadings and almost unlimited categories in which to store information. For instance, you can ask, do you have anything about Ashburn? The screen brings 'Ashburn' up, with all its related information." A few of its other categories are Art, History 1600s, History 1700s, History 1800s, Obituaries, Cemeteries, Vital Statistics Adams County, Slaves, Census, Business, Maps, Boats, Famous People and Churches.

Louis DeVries, who is Reference Librarian, and Jones spend time each day feeding Alvin data, such as old newspaper articles, courthouse records, obituaries, the deteriorated collections of Edith Wyatt Moore and Amanda Geisenberger and the collection of Miss Eadie, who was a local genealogist.

"Recently Louis and Sam put in an article telling of the planting of the first cotton in Adams County," Janky said. "We are adding daily to our Mississippi history and obituaries categories. In time, Alvin will be a tremendous resource."

Dr. Inglis has spent several years researching the Spanish Natchez records, which have been stored in the Archivo General de Indias in Seville for more than a century. The return of Spanish records to Natchez is the result of efforts by Dr. Inglis, the Natchez Historical Society, the Judge George W. Armstrong Public Library, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Natchez Trace Parkway and Natchez National Historical Park, in cooperation with the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration.

Family Tree Maker

Another software program on Doug's Computer has an interesting genealogy feature called Family Tree Maker.

This program was a gift from First Families of Mississippi, who last year donated a new microfilm reader with laser printer to the library.

"The Family Tree Maker letters family tree information, just like a calligrapher, and prints it out to look like a professionally-done family tree," Janky said.

"Also, Doug's Computer can be used by people who hate to hand-write their research. They can bring in a floppy disc and type their findings on the IBM-compatible computer."

The Judge George W. Armstrong Library, 200 South Commerce Street, is open 9-6 Monday-Thursday; 9-5 Friday; and 9-1 on Saturday. ■ *by Barbara Potter*

1993 part 1
page 88

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Two from MDCC attend literary event

Rosemary Wright of Ruleville, a Political Science instructor at MDCC, and freshman Secondary Education major Paul Corerro of Greenwood, recently attended the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration which was co-sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez Historical Park.

The three day event featured 16 noted authors and scholars whose lectures followed this year's theme "The Three R's: Readin', Ritin' and the River." Special guests included such well known Mississippians as Will Campbell, Elizabeth Spencer, Jerry Clower and Willie Morris.

The focal point of this year's celebration was the Mississippi River

upon whose waters have crested the literary inventions of generations of writers, according to one story.

Several conference topics dealt with the history of Southern blacks, according to Co-Lin English Department Coordinator, "Because a good deal of African-American culture is inextricably intertwined with the history of the Mississippi River."

One lecture, by Cambridge University visiting fellow Shelly Fisher Fishkin, was entitled "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices" and was a new interpretation of Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" which some have criticized for its negative depiction of blacks.

1993 part 1
page 89



TRINITY TALES

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, Jr., Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Alfred C. Marley, Jr., Bishop Coadjutor
The Rev. Harry E. Allen, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Dr. Eugene E. Kohlbecker, Assistant
Vincent B. Bache, III, Organist/Choirmaster

Woodrow W. Allen, Senior Warden
V. Jack Stephens, Junior Warden
Philip E. Carby, Clerk
John T. Green, Chancellor

JUNE 13 - JUNE 26, 1993

2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, June 13

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 4:00 p.m. Church Hill
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Communion
- 6:00 p.m. EYC

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the 45th anniversary of Bess and Bud Marron.

Acolytes 10:30 service: Kaiser Harriss, Justin Gaudet, Carrie Pugh, Hicks Winters
Altar Guild: Mary Ann Jones, Mac Bryant, Robyn Gibson, Dana Katzenmeyer, Mabel Raworth, Phebe Winters
Flower Guild: Carla Johnson, Bethany Overton, Catherine Morgan

Usher 10:30 service: Jack Stephens

Tuesday, June 15

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group

Wednesday, June 16

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist/Uncion
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Uncion
- 6:00 p.m. Study/Supper

Friday, June 18

- 12:05 p.m. Noon-Day Prayers

3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, June 20

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Communion
- 6:00 p.m. EYC

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the birthday of their son, Russell, by Sam and Patty Godfrey and in memory of mother, Mildred Gresham James, by Millie and Loff Calvert.

Acolytes 10:30 service: Anna Catesby, Jessica Tippins, Jesse Poole, Kaiser Harriss,
Altar Guild: Ann O'Bryant, Betty Barnes, Betty Ewald, Kathy Guyer, Gail Healy, Virginia Newby, Helen Rayne, Carolyn Smith
Flower Guild: Ruth Ellen Calhoun, Ethel Banta, Sharla Godfrey

Usher 10:30 service: Philip Carby

Monday, June 21

- 5:30 p.m. Vestry

Tuesday, June 22

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group

Wednesday, June 23

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist/Uncion
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Uncion
- 6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Supper/Study

Friday, June 25

- 12:05 p.m. Noon Day Prayers

Saturday, June 26

- 4:00 p.m. Tillery/Penton Wedding
- 6:30 p.m. Barnes/Smith Wedding

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 13 - JUNE 25

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 13 - Benjamin Tillman | 19 - Sam Russell Godfrey |
| Samuel Mohon III | 21 - Patsy Armstrong |
| Elaine Easley | 22 - Anna Bland |
| Philip Poole | 23 - Jake Adams |
| 16 - Helen Rayne | Priscilla Biron |
| 17 - Richard Darkin | William Ernst, Jr. |
| Berry Bateman | 25 - Brenda Browning |
| 18 - Mary Alice Thomas | |
| Elizabeth Swalm | |

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER:

I would like to extend a very personal "Thank You" to all the members of The Trinity Adult Choir, and to the choristers and parents of The Choir of Men & Boys, for all their hard work this year! The musical gift these groups give lovingly to our parish is one we should all cherish indeed. The choirs give freely of their time and talents, not only on Sundays and special feast days, but also with many hours of rehearsal 'behind the scenes'. Weekly they offer their hearts and voices, enriching the services for the people of God. So I offer to these dedicated musicians my heartfelt appreciation for a job well done, and I would ask our parishioners to take a moment when you see one of the choristers this summer to tell them how very much their offering means to you. Our regular program of rehearsals and performances will reconvene in September.

The Trinity Adult Choir

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ann Siddall | Carolyn Vance Smith |
| Della Wood | John Ball |
| Ann Julia Hughes | Matthew Monette |
| Sarah Young | Louis Gunning |
| Susan Hudson | Sam Godfrey |
| Christy Williams | Tom Green |
| Rebecca McGehee | |
| Louis Gunning, Head Chorister | |

The Choir of Men & Boys

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Will McGehee | Patrick Doherty |
| Conor Gibson | Matthew Monette |
| Andrew Katzenmeyer | Stephen Fitzgerald |
| Travis Taunton | Larry Buckley |
| Charles Robinette | Bazile Lanneau |
| Grey Sample | |
| Travis Taunton, Head Chorister | |
| Charles Robinette, Deputy Head Chorister | |

Humanities students win honors

Outstanding students and faculty members in the humanities division of a dozen community colleges in Mississippi were honored at the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration.

"We are very happy to put these outstanding people in the spotlight this year," said Dean Travis Thornton of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Faculty and student honorees also were the guests of honor at a public reception Thursday.

Honorees and their colleges are:

■ Lola C. Holloway and Pamela L. Green, Coahoma Community College, Clarksdale;

■ Jarrett Rodriguez, Co-Lin Natchez;

■ Nancy Dykes and Mendez Goldman, Co-Lin, Wesson;

■ Ovid Vickers and Jennifer Leigh Anderson, East Central Community College, Decatur;

■ Betty R. Killebrew, East Mississippi Community College, Scooba;

■ Sheila McGraw, Holmes Community College, Ridgeland;

■ Dr. Ken Bishop, Itawamba Community College, Fulton;

■ Shanda Farrior, Jones County Junior College, Ellisville;

■ Rosemary G. Wright and Paul J. Correro Jr., Mississippi Delta Community College, Moorhead;

■ Walter Mullen, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Gautier;

■ Sara Patten and Richard Gregg Wheat, Pearl River Community College, Poplarville;

■ Belinda Jones and Heide McKenzie, Southwest Mississippi Community College, Summit.

The Natchez Democrat

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1993

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Musicians to tip hats to Mississippi River

Tunes from "Showboat," a movie filmed partly in Natchez, will be featured in an hour-long pops concert in Natchez Friday night. The movie is based on a book by the same name by Edna Ferber.

The concert, called "Music of the Mississippi and Other Rivers," will take place at 7 p.m. Friday at the Natchez City Auditorium.

The concert is part of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, which is using the theme, "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River."

Tickets for the concert are \$5, available from Natchez Box Office, 445-0353, or at the door.

Conducting the 37-piece orchestra will be Robert M. McNally of Jackson.

"Showboat" tunes to be per-

formed include "Old Man River," McNally said.

"Other selections feature the Mississippi River, the Shenandoah River and other rivers of the world," McNally said. "Everything we've chosen for the concert has a nostalgic theme, something connected to rivers or river cities."

Selections in addition to "Showboat" include "Out of Africa" Love Theme by John Barry, "New York/Chicago," "Moon River" by Henry Mancini, "Under the Sea," "The Watermill" by Binge, "Shenandoah," "Mardi Gras" from "Mississippi Suite" by Ferde Grothe and "New Orleans Medley."

"The program will end with everybody's favorite 'Stars and Stripes' by John Philip Sousa," McNally said.

The celebration continues

Today's Natchez Literary Celebration lecture lineup continues, with the first program scheduled for 8:30 a.m. at Natchez's City Auditorium. Here is the schedule:

■ "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam," by Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, author and historian of Natchez, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, visiting fellow at Cam-

bridge University in Cambridge, England, 10 a.m.

■ "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," by Hillery Jacque Knight III, associate professor of English at Tougaloo College, 11 a.m.

■ "The Rivers in My Life," by Willie Morris, Mississippi author, 2 p.m.

■ "Good Ol' Boy," a movie based on a Willie Morris book, with a discussion led by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp of Centre College in Danville, Ky., 3:15 p.m.

1993 part 1
page 92

In this issue...

From the Publisher	4
He's My Brother	5
...a photo feature	
New Library Equipment Aids Historians & Genealogists	8
Lady Bombers	10
Softball and What's Hot	14
An Antebellum Wedding	15
Brides and Grooms	16
Natchez Swim Team	20
Natchez Bicycle Classic	22
Outstanding Natchezian	24
Collecting Antiques: An Odyssey	24
Who's News	28
New Arrivals	30

The Natchez **Digest**

Community Current Events, Facts and Plans.

Terry G. Stutzman, Publisher

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1993 part 1
page 93



Outstanding Natchezian

Carolyn Vance Smith is Outstanding!

She goes by the name Carolyn Vance Smith, but she could easily go by "Carolyn, the Wordsmith." This award-winning teacher, journalist, and author has been selected as the Natchez Digest's July Outstanding Citizen for her ability to ignite the creativity and leadership of her fellow Natchezians to establish the Natchez Literary Celebration (NLC). With the help of Copiah-Lincoln Junior College (Co-Lin) and the National Park Service, Smith has been able to pull together what the evaluator of the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC), Dr. John Guice has deemed the best expenditure of Humanities Council money in the United States. Dr. Guice attributes the success of the NLC to its diversity. Others feel strongly about the celebration as well.

"I do not know of anything that has provided me with so much pleasure and satisfaction," states William F. Winter, former Governor of Mississippi.

"It is beyond question the best program this evaluator has been part of during many years of involvement in Mississippi and elsewhere," said Dr. Charles D. Lowery, former MHC evaluator of the '92 NLC.

"Congratulations to organizers of the '93 NLC for a successful program of unparalleled quality and variety," says Connie Taunton, Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In the past two years, Smith has been able to attain the largest grants from the Humanities Council that have ever been awarded. She credits Brad Chism for his expertise in writing grant applications.

The NLC does reach a wide range of people. Not only were great works of literature discussed among thousands of well-read people, but art contests were held for children of all ages. The NLC also had a special combination of an evening with Dr. William Ferris, Director of the Center for Southern Studies and Jerry Clower, Mississippi folklorist. People from all educational and socio-economic levels participated. "There is nothing more fun for these people than to listen, learn and discuss ideas. We are turning the corner on the couch potato generation. People of all levels come to the NLC to celebrate books, education, learning and knowledge.

Smith, again under the wing of Co-Lin, directs one of the hottest Elderhostel programs in the country. The NLC and the Elderhostel program both bring tourism dollars to Natchez during the slow season.

Smith draws energy for all of these activities through the support and encouragement of her husband, Marion, her children, Emily and William, her parents, Bill and Harriet, and her colleagues at Co-Lin. "I, Carolyn Vance



Photo by M & S Studios

Carolyn Vance Smith, Outstanding Natchezian.

Smith, am so deeply indebted that my colleagues at Co-Lin would not only be supportive of the activities that I enjoy, but to take the lead to make it succeed. Dean Travis Thornton and the Co-Lin Administration, Faculty, and students made this happen."

Carolyn Vance Smith is outstanding! Smith has authored and co-authored numerous books. Her latest include: Natchez: An Illustrated History, Natchez by Design, The Goat Castle Murder, Secrets of Natchez, and many, many more! ■ by Elizabeth Netterville

1993 part 1
page 95

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MISSISSIPPI

TRAVEL GUIDE



Pilgrimages, Casinos and Much, Much More
Spring Summer 1993



0 74470 78179 0

1993 part 1
page 96

CONTENTS



ARTICLES

- 4-5 Mississippi State Map
- 6-8 Calendar of Events,
January-June
- 9 Clinton
- 10-16 Natchez
- 17-48 MetroJackson, Jackson and Ridgeland
- 50 Canton
- 51-55 Vicksburg
- 57-59 Delta, Greenville and
Greenwood
- 60-63 Tupelo
- 64 Aberdeen
- 65-67 Columbus
- 68 Kosciusko
- 69-71 Hattiesburg
- 72-96 Mississippi Beach, Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian,
Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs and Pascagoula



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by Rudi Holnsteiner

January - June 1993 3

1993 part 1
page 97

29 CANTON - FROG TOWNE 5-K
RUN. Canton Historic Square,
859- 1307 or 800- 844- 3369

30 PASS CHRISTIAN - BLESSING OF
THE FLEET. Small Craft Harbor,
452- 2252

June

3- 5 CLARKSDALE - DELTA
JUBILEE. 800- 626- 3764

3- 5 NATCHEZ - THE NATCHEZ
LITERARY CELEBRATION.
1- 800- 647- 6724 or 442- 9111

4- 5 TUPELO - OLEPUT FESTIVAL.
Downtown, 842- 1591

5 BROOKHAVEN - OLE BROOK FES-
TIVAL. Brookhaven Elementary School
Campus, 833- 1411

5 CHUNKY - THE GREAT CHUNKY
RIVER RAFT RACE. Boyette's Fish
Camp on Highway 80, 482- 6161 or
483- 0083

5 GREENWOOD - FISHING RODEO.
Floewood River Plantation State Park,
455- 3821

5 TISHOMINGO - BEAR CREEK
FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL. Loochapala
Lodge, Tishomingo State Park,
438- 6914

11- 13 GULFPORT - RON MEYER
SHRIMP FESTIVAL. Rice Pavilion,
896- 9336, 896- 6699 or 800- 237- 9493

11- 13 MONTICELLO - LAWRENCE
COUNTY PIONEER PILGRIMAGE.
587- 7731 or 886- 7128

12- 13 NATCHEZ - JUNE VICTORIAN
TOUR. 446- 6631 or 800- 647- 6742

24- 27 GREENWOOD - MISSISSIPPI
INTERNATIONAL BALLOON CLAS-
SIC. Whittington Park on US 82 By-
Pass, 453- 9197 or 800- 748- 9064

26 NATCHEZ - GREAT STEAMBOAT
RACE & FLOOZIE
CONTEST. Silver Street, Under the
Hill, 800- 647- 6724

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Don't forget that Pilgrimage is on the calendar March 6 through April 4. Then May brings a month-long Opera Festival that begins with a Grand Viennese Ball on the 1st and continues with operatic performances, plantation recitals and a musical cabaret throughout the month.

Lovers of literature flock to Natchez each year for the Literary Celebration. On June 3 through 5, noted writers and reviewers discuss "The Three R's: Readin', Writin' and the River." Visitors to the city are invited to attend.

Natchez, known for its antebellum architecture, has lovely Victorian homes as well. On June 12 and 13, these structures will be open to tour through Natchez Pilgrimage Tours.

Then, the summer begins with a bang as the Mississippi Queen and Delta Queen Riverboats race from New Orleans to Natchez. On June 26, they arrive "Under-the-Hill" and stage a flamboyant "floozie" contest. Riverboat passengers and crew members dress for the occasion as riverboat gamblers and ladies of the night. All of Natchez gets into the fun and you're invited too!

For information contact Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau or Natchez Pilgrimage Tours at 800-647-6742.

boat's lavish interior. "Lady Luck" casino, whose games are approved and regulated by the Mississippi Gaming Commission, becomes a part of Natchez's historic waterfront and she's throwing away the key! The gang-plank is down twenty-four hours a day and her doors are open for the party.

All in all Natchez has much to offer its visitors whether the interest lies in the elegant furnishings of the

beautiful mansions, rolling landscapes of some of the historic areas, the history of this early flavorful town or in its quiet walks along the Mississippi River. Natchez is a resort city - she rolls out the carpet at midnight rather than pulling down the shades.

Exciting Natchez! Historic Natchez! With a panoply of events, attractions and accommodations to suit every taste and every timetable.

1993 part 1
page 99

Morris captures crowd's attention with new book

By Robin Miller
Staff reporter

NATCHEZ, Miss. — For Willie Morris, it was a trip back in time. Mississippi, 1942.

For those listening, it was like going back to second grade. A time when spring afternoons were priceless treasures because the teacher set aside time to read aloud.

Perhaps about Mississippi, 1942.

The teachers were good, but this was better.

The Mississippi author just can't be matched when reading from his own work — especially when that work is close to his heart.

Morris was a featured speaker last week at the Natchez Literary Celebration. His lecture, "The Rivers of My Life," coincided with celebration theme "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin' and the River."

But it was excerpts from his new book, *New York Days*, that caught the crowd's attention.

A sequel

New York Days is a sequel to Morris' 1967 autobiographical book, *North Toward Home*.

The first story was written when Morris sat at the helm of Harper's magazine in New York. Morris talked of the South and growing up in Yazoo City, Miss.

He looks at life in New York in his new book.

about

the South from a Northerner's point of view." Morris said after the presentation. "This book is more of a look at the North from a Southerner's point of view."

A throng of people, armed with copies of Morris' novel *Good Old Boy*, patiently waited as the author talked. Each had a story to tell him.

Some knew him from way back when. His stories reminded others of their childhood homes.

Waited for introduction

Then there were those who just wanted to get to know him — just to say they spent a few seconds with Willie Morris.

Who could blame them?

This was a man who, at 34, was the youngest editor-in-chief of Harper's, America's oldest magazine. He transformed it into one of the most controversial and distinguished magazines in the country.

Morris' tenure saw the publishing of the first detailed account of the Vietnam massacre at My Lai. Harper's also carried Norman Mailer's prize-winning piece, "On the Steps of the Pentagon."

The young editor knew everyone from writers and poets to homicide detectives and politicians to actresses and athletes.

"I dined with Sinatra, sat next to DiMaggio in the Garden, danced with Scarlett O'Hara's younger sister and



Robin Miller

Mississippi author Willie Morris signs a copy of his children's book, *Good Old Boy* at the Natchez Literary Celebration. Morris'

new book, *New York Days* will be in August.

■ Advice, C-10

■ Weddings, C-12

Alexandria Daily Town Talk

Sunday

June 13, 1993

Features

1993 part 1
page 100

Scott Fitzgerald's only daughter," he read from a passage in *New York Days*.

He even gave Leonard Bernstein a pen stating, "I'm a yellow-dog Democrat." The pen was a gift from a politician back home.

Bernstein asked Morris the meaning behind the term, and Morris offered his grandmother's definition: "I'd vote for a yellow dog before I'd vote for a Republican."

Despite it all, Morris has managed to bypass what would seem to be an inevitable air of snobbery. It doesn't matter that he hobnobbed with the elite, he's still a Mississippian at heart — people are just people to him, and he likes talking to all.

A reporter for the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* probably best described Morris in a recent article.

"Anyone who knows Willie

Morris, a painfully honest writer who has somehow managed to be one-part Southern good ol' boy and one-part citizen of New York, also knows that his life has been a roller-coaster ride of ups and downs," he wrote. "And at no time have the ups been steeper or the downs dizzier than during the New York years."

■ Please see MORRIS, C-8

Willie Morris — a Southern gentleman

By Robin Miller

Staff reporter

Some people think of great writing upon mention of Willie Morris' name.

Others think of his past as editor-in-chief of Harper's magazine.

I think, "Southern gentleman."

Morris was recently a featured lecturer at the Natchez Literary Celebration. "Readin', 'Ruin' and the River." I rode over for his presentation, but I had talked with him before. It was four years ago.

I was working in McComb, Miss., and Morris was in town for a book signing.

The book was *Good Old Boy*

Commentary

and the *Witch of Yazo*, sequel to his popular 1974 children's novel, *Good Old Boy*.

He developed the idea for the sequel while staying with a friend in Mississippi's Pike County. He was working on still another novel *Taps* when it all began.

Rumor had it that satanic cult activity was widespread in the area. The scare turned out to be a hoax, but not before hysteria swept the county.

Morris, himself a celebrated practical joker, immediately

saw fictional possibilities in the situation. The result was *Good Old Boy* and the *Witch of Yazo*.

The resulting book signing was to be a dress-up affair — a big reception.

My plans that day were to interview him before the signing, then leave.

I was nervous, after all — this was the Willie Morris.

This was the same person who, at 34, was the youngest editor-in-chief of Harper's — the man who changed the country's oldest magazine into one of the most controversial and distinguished publications of the day.

He rubbed shoulders with

top writers, poets, intellectuals, actors, actresses, athletes and politicians.

He was writer-in-residence at the University of Mississippi, and author of numerous novels.

So, I was in awe, and I was nervous. Why would he want to talk with me, a kid from a small-town daily newspaper?

I figured we'd talk a few minutes, then he'd politely excuse himself and turn his attention to the book signing.

I was wrong. I discovered the true meaning of Southern gentleman.

Morris was sitting at a fancy table when I entered. Norma Wilkinson,

owner of W.T. Books in McComb, introduced us.

Morris had already spotted me and stood up — like Southern gentlemen do in old movies when a lady enters the room.

He didn't sit down until I was sitting. I immediately felt at ease.

Morris had set the scene — I was his guest.

My interview was first. He told me of childhood, pranks he played on his aunts in Yazoo City and how he came about developing the idea for the book.

"A writer's greatest ally is

■ See GENTLEMAN, C-8

1993 part 1
page 101

Morris

■ Continued from C-7

So, when a woman approached Morris with stories of her days in Yazoo City, he didn't hesitate to reminisce with her. When Californians Dick and Fran Stewart complimented him on his writing, he was genuinely appreciative.

"You've made us sorry that we weren't born in Mississippi," Stewart said.

"Where are you from?" Morris asked.

"San Carlos, Calif., it's near San Francisco," Stewart said.

"San Francisco," Morris began. "I saw Willie Mays play there once ..."

And the conversations continued.

Morris, 58, was born in Jackson, Miss., where he now lives with wife JoAnne Pritchard, editor of University Press of Mississippi.

"I have my own live-in editor," he quipped.

His writing career began at age 12 as a part-time sports writer for the Yazoo Herald.

After graduating from Yazoo City High School in 1952, he enrolled at the University of Texas, where he became editor of the school newspaper, The Daily Texan.

He was later named a Rhodes Scholar and studied at Oxford University in England, where he received his master's degree.

Morris returned to Texas, where he worked as editor of the Texas Observer in Austin. He left Texas for New York, where he was named an associate editor of Harper's at age 26.

That's where his New York days began.

"This book was really very hard for me to write," Morris said. "It's so personal. I guess that's why it took me two-and-a-half plus 25 years to write it."

Interpretation: Twenty-five years to think about it, and two years of actual writing.

pose for the photographs.

Morris was against the idea at first. He didn't want to exploit his son.

But David Ray was willing to pose, so Morris agreed.

Morris paused several times while reading these passages in Natchez. The time obviously remains emotional for him.

He watched as the photographer set up shots, realizing almost instantly that David Ray looked exactly as he did at that age.

"I said, 'My God, this is 1942,'"

Morris said.

Resigned

The author resigned his position at Harper's four years later, citing disagreements with management. A half-dozen reporters walked out with him.

Among them were some of the day's best-known — David Halberstam, Marshall Frady and Larry King.

Morris moved to Long Island, N.Y., where he lived for nine years. The telephones had stopped ringing, and he was no longer the center of attention.

So he settled into writing. The book was *Good Old Boy: A Delta Boyhood*, published in 1974. It was a children's book that skyrocketed to popularity among kids and teachers across the country.

Other books followed, including *Terrains of the Heart*, *The Last of the Southern Girls*, *Homecomings*, *Life After Mississippi*, *The Courting of Marcus*

Duprè, *Always Stand Against the Curve* and *Other Sports Stories*. James Jones' *A Friendship and Good Old Boy*, and *The Witch of Yazoo*, sequel to the original.

Disney later made a movie of *Good Old Boy*, filming it in Natchez.

Morris moved back to Mississippi in 1980, where he was writer-in-residence at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. He held the post for almost 10 years before marrying Ms. Pritchard and moving to Jackson.

People were still lining up to talk with Morris long after he stepped off the Natchez Municipal Auditorium stage, dispersing when the lights were dimmed for a showing of Disney's version of *Good Old Boy*.

From Natchez, it's to Atlanta for Morris, then a national tour.

Though it won't be officially released until August, *New York Days* is already getting good reviews from noted writers such as Pat Conroy, George Plimpton and Joseph Heller.

The attention is nice, but it's different this time around. Willie Morris is in the South this time for good.

"Truman Capote said, 'All Southerners come home sooner or later, even if it's in a box,'" Morris said. "I was reluctant to wait that long."

Glad he waited

"I'm glad I waited to write it," he said. "There were so many people and events in it, that waiting gave me a chance to step back and see it from a different perspective."

"I'm glad I returned home before I wrote it."

It may have also taken Morris a little longer to write the book because he doesn't use a computer.

"I write everything in long-hand," he said, smiling. "I must have worn out 180 black felt tip pens."

In *New York Days*, Morris writes of Harper's promotion of *North Toward Home*. A photographer wanted to take photographs for the article on location in Yazoo City.

He also wanted Morris' 7-year-old son, David Ray, to

1993 part 1
page 102

Gentleman

■ Continued from C-7

his memory," he said. "Childhood and adolescence are probably most important to a writer."

His childhood memories are many.

While staying with his aunts, Morris used a special microphone to break in on a favorite radio program to announce that the Yankees were coming. His aunts, shocked by the news, ran around the house warning of the invasion.

His pranks didn't stop with childhood.

In the early 1980s, Morris' housemate was a black Labrador retriever named Pete. He swore that the dog was the mayor of Bridgehampton, N.Y.

When he moved to Oxford, Miss., Morris introduced the city's mayor to the mayor of Bridgehampton. The Oxford mayor broke into laughter when finding out the Bridgehampton mayor was Pete and later referred to Pete as his deputy mayor.

Pete died in 1983. He was her-

alded as one of the most famous dogs in America, ranking with Lassie and Rin Tin Tin.

He is buried on a hill at the University of Mississippi.

My interview ended, but not the conversation. It was time for Morris' interview.

"Where are you from?" he asked.

"Baton Rouge," I said.

That immediately caught his interest.

"Did you go to LSU?" he asked.

I did.

He wanted to talk football. Southeastern Conference football.

I liked that.

"I was sitting in Tiger Stadium a couple of years ago," he said. "It was the Ole Miss game — you know, the last one where the Rebels beat the Tigers?"

At the time, such occurrences were rare. I remembered.

"I was sitting in the south end zone, and when (LSU place-kicker) David Brownkyke kicked that last field goal," Morris said. "I just knew the Tigers were going to win. Brownkyke never missed."

But he did miss, and Morris'

Rebels walked away with the victory.

A line began forming, and I thought it was time for me to leave.

"No," he said. "They can wait. It's not time yet. Let's talk some more."

We did. I told him where I had worked before and about some of the people I'd met along the way.

And the best part — when I saw him in Natchez on Friday, he remembered me.

A true Southern gentleman.

1993 part 1
page 103

Mississippi Writers Association

Vol 1 No 1

Winnfred Smith, Editor

June 1993

Noteworthy Contents

Annual Conference	1
Memo from the President	3
Help	3
Treasury Notes	4
May Workshop	5
Writing Contest	7

1993 part 1
page 104

Annual Conference

6th Annual Mississippi Writers Conference is June 6

"Will D. Campbell, author of Brother of A Dragonfly, and Providence, and eight other titles, will be the featured speaker at the 6th annual Mississippi Writers Conference. The conference will be held Sunday, June 6th, in Natchez", according to Jo Barksdale, President of the Mississippi Writers Association.

"Our regular meetings are held in Jackson, Barksdale says, "But this year we're moving our annual conference to Natchez as a adjunct to the Natchez Literary Celebration. We want people to be able to take advantage of both programs."

"The Natchez Literary Celebration's title this year was also a natural for the Mississippi Writers Association. The Three R's: Readin, Riting, and the River, is about the contributions that Mississippi writers' have, and are still, making to literature. The MWA's goal is to nurture and

educate as many writers as possible for Mississippi's writing future", Barksdale said.

The Natchez Literary Celebration is June 2-6. Information and reservations may be made by calling the Natchez Box Office at the number found following this article.

The Mississippi Writers Conference begins at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning at the Best Western River Park Hotel on South Canal Street. It is located at the foot of the Mississippi River Bridge.

The MWA Conference is funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council, all conference workshops are free and open to the public.

Rebecca Hood-Adams will "kick off" the program at 9:30 A.M. with "Mining Your Memories: Using Personal History to Create a Sense of Place in Fiction." A Pulitzer Prize nominee and guest lecturer at the national Institute of Poetry in London, England, Hood-Adams is now a creative writing instructor at Milsaps College. She has been a newspaper columnist and writer for many years.

At 10:30 a.m. Jo Anne Pritchard, Executive Editor of The University Press of Mississippi, will speak on "The Publisher's Role In Influencing American Values: Literary Writing v.s. Commercial Writing." Pritchard, who lives in Jackson, is the wife of author, Willie Morris, slated to speak June 4, at the Natchez Literary Celebration.

At 11:30 a.m. the MWA will host a champagne brunch, featuring award-winning writer Will Campbell. Campbell will talk about his latest book, Providence. Providence chronicles the 170-year history of a square mile of Mississippi soil.

"Will's wit and wisdom weave a spell, charming audiences." Barksdale said. "In my opinion he is one of the greatest living nonfiction writers in America." Barksdale stated.

Campbell will return at 4:00 p.m. for an hour of informal questions and answers and to autograph his books.

Tickets for the Champagne Brunch are \$15 and may be purchased at the Natchez Box Office by calling the toll-free number found at the end of this article. Those holding brunch tickets will be admitted first to all workshops. Others will be able to hear Campbell speak without charge on a space-available basis.

Dr. Anne Lundin, Children's Literature author and critic, will speak at 1:00 p.m. Lundin has been a children's book critic for the Clarion Ledger and Hattisburg American for a number of years. Lundin is former librarian for Hattisburg's de Grummond Library, the largest research library of children's books in North America. She is now an assistant Librarian at the School of Library and Information at the University of Wisconsin.

At 2:00 p.m. Dr. Peggy Preshaw, Professor of English at LSU, will lead a workshop on "The Art and the Artifice of the Interview." Preshaw was editor for Conversations with Eudora Welty and Conversations With Elizabeth Spencer. These are just two of Dr. Preshaw's many works as author, editor, and critic.

At 3:00 p.m. Dr. Charles Lowery, Chairman of the Department of History at MSU (Miss. State University), speaks on "The Place of Tall Tales in Literature." Lowery also has done numerous works as an author, editor, and critic.

Will Campbell returns at 4:00 p.m.

For further information contact:
Jo Barksdale, President
Mississippi Writers Association
P.O. Box 1278
Jackson, Mississippi 39215
(601) 352-6864

For Brunch reservations contact:
The Natchez Box Office:
1-800-862-3259

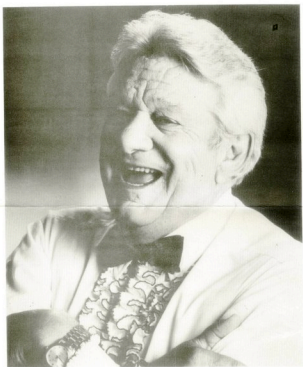
1993 part 1
page 105

The Natchez Literary Celebration

presents

JERRY CLOWER

America's top humorist and storyteller



IN NATCHEZ!

7 P.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1993

NATCHEZ CITY AUDITORIUM

Tickets \$7.50 from Natchez Box Office

(601) 445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259

or at the door

THE NATCHEZ
LITERARY
CELEBRATION

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 2-6, 1993
presents

The Three R's:



1993 part 1
page 1

Lectures and Presentations

- **Mr. John Hoesterey**, Historian, National Park Service, Denver: *The Heritage of the Mississippi River*
- **Dr. William S. Coker**, Historian, University of West Florida: *Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763*
- **Dr. Charles Lowery**, Historian, Mississippi State University: *Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi*
- **Dr. Robert V. Remini**, Historian, University of Illinois, Chicago: *Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River*
- **Dr. David G. Sansing**, Historian, University of Mississippi: *From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez*
- **Mr. Terrence Winschel**, Historian, National Park Service, Vicksburg, Mississippi: *The Mississippi River and the Civil War*
- **Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp**, Film Expert, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky: *Discussions of Three Films: "Huck Finn," "Good Old Boy," and "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"*
- **Dr. Thomas H. Gandy**, Historian, Natchez, Mississippi: *The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats, and Steam*
- **Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin**, Scholar, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England: *Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices*
- **Mr. Hillery Jacque Knight III**, Poet, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi: *The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation*
- **Mr. Willie Morris**, Author, Jackson, Mississippi: *The Rivers in My Life*
- **Dr. Peggy W. Prenshaw**, Scholar, Louisiana State University: *Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart*
- **Ms. Elizabeth Spencer**, Author, University of North Carolina: *Port Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary*
- **Mr. Ernest Gaines**, Author, University of Southwestern Louisiana: *Of Men and Rivers*
- **Dr. William Ferris**, Scholar, University of Mississippi: *Storytelling Along the River Road*
- **Mr. Jerry Clower**, Humorist and Author, Liberty, Mississippi: *Stories from Home*



Other Celebration Events

Tours of historic homes and sites near the river

Premiere of Mississippi ETV's *Return to the River*

Film festival: *Huck Finn*, *Good Old Boy*, and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*

Pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra

Re-enactment of the Civil War Union occupation of Natchez

Writing workshops and booksigning

Exhibits, entertainments, meals, and parties

\$110 for full package • \$20 for lectures only • Other events from \$5

For tickets, call Natchez Box Office 1-800-862-3259 or (601) 445-0353

• • •

Presented by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway

Program partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Mississippi Arts Commission

EXHIBITS

Exhibits funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council will be on display throughout the 25th anniversary celebration. They will be located in the lobby of the War Memorial Building and at various spots in the Old Capitol Museum.

Special tours and gallery talks will feature specific exhibits on Monday and Tuesday. Please take time to enjoy these outstanding examples of MHC-funded projects. Consult your printed program for times, locations, and exhibit guides.

*Craftsmen of Mississippi
Images of Madness*

V.A. Patterson, Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild
Jane Crater Hiatt, Mississippi State Hospital/
Mental Health Association of the Capital Area

The Library and Its Community

Pamela Pridgen,
Hattiesburg Public Library

Natchez Jewish Homecoming

Marcie Cohen Ferris, Temple B'Nai Israel/
Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience

Shake 'Em on Down

John Ruskey, Delta Blues Museum

Exhibits and gallery talks throughout the celebration cosponsored by the organizations which produced them, as listed above.

FILM FESTIVAL

Screenings of MHC-Supported Videos

The Mississippi Humanities Council has supported many award-winning documentaries, dramatizations of classics, and other film, audio, and video programs. Some of the videos will be screened on Monday and Tuesday in the Senate Chamber. The programs will be introduced by humanities scholars, who are always a central resource for council-supported productions, and the scholars will answer questions and facilitate discussions following each screening.

These programs, many of which have been broadcast on public television and public radio, should be of interest to the general public and of special interest to teachers in history, literature and languages, music, and other humanities areas. Teacher Guides will be available at the sessions. Copies of the tapes are available on loan for educational purposes. A complete list of MHC videos is available upon request.

Screenings cosponsored by Mississippi Educational Television. Videos are available courtesy the Southern Humanities Media Fund, of which MHC is a member.

Freedom on My Mind, **Dr. Charles Sallis**, Millsaps College

The Delta Foundation, Producers: Connie Fields and Marilyn Melford

This two-hour documentary brings to life the dramatic story of the Mississippi Voter Registration Project (1961-1964) and the many individuals committed to racial justice who ultimately created the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Nominated for 1994 Academy Award for "Best Feature Documentary," winner of Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, 1994, John O'Connor Award, American Historical Association, and other prizes.

Tell About the South, I, **Dr. Ginger Hitt**, MS University for Women

James Agee Film Project, Producer: Ross Spears

The first episode of a three-part series which explores the literary tradition of the South, showcasing the rich history of the region and featuring interviews with numerous living authors, including Mississippians Eudora Welty, Shelby Foote, Willie Morris, and Margaret Walker.

For additional information, please contact MHC at 601-982-6752, write MHC, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson 39211, or email barbara@mhc.state.ms.us. FAX 982-6750, or visit our Homepage at <http://www.jhl.state.ms.us/index.html>

The Mississippi Humanities Council does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

This program is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council

All Mississippi Humanities Council programs are free and open to the public. Anyone who does not choose to pay for the meal is welcome to attend the awards dinner. Seating will be provided.

MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL
CELEBRATES 25 YEARSMississippi
Humanities Council
25th Anniversary
CelebrationHometown, Mississippi
A Celebration of Community and Place

Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History
and War Memorial Building
Jackson, Mississippi,
September 21-23, 1997

Sponsored by:
The Mississippi Department of Archives
and History
Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History

SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS

Sunday, September 21, 1997

Old Capitol Museum House Chamber

2:00 P.M. Opening Session

Keynote Address –
Mr. Clifton Taddei,
We Thought the Roads Led Nowhere
(Reception to follow immediately in
Supreme Court Chamber, Old Capitol)

Monday, September 22, 1997

Old Capitol Museum and War Memorial
Building

9:00 A.M. Registration
9:30 A.M. Concurrent Sessions

- A. Video Screening –
Freedom on My Mind
B. Your Town, Mississippi –
Panel Discussion with “Your Town”
Grant Recipients and How to Apply
for an MHC Grant
C. Speakers Bureau Presentation

10:45 A.M.

The Mississippi River:
Many Cultures

2:30 Concurrent Sessions

- A. The Way We Were: Memories of
MHC
B. Exhibit Tours and Gallery Talks
C. Speakers Bureau Presentation

7:00 P.M.

The Cora Norman Lecture
Dr. Peggy Whitman Preshaw, *Navigating
the Humanities in Academia and Public Life*
(Reception to follow immediately in the Hall
of Flags)

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

9:00 A.M. Registration

9:30 A.M. 25th Anniversary Chautauqua

11:00 A.M. Concurrent Sessions

- A. Video Screening –
Tell About the South, I
B. Storytelling Across Cultures

2:30 P.M. Concurrent Sessions

- A. Jackson Shakespeare Institute
B. Speakers Bureau Presentation
C. Video Screening –
All Day and All Night

4:00 P.M. Concurrent Sessions

- A. Exhibit Tours and Gallery Talks
B. Making a Difference: The Women of
Memorial Day

6:00 P.M. Awards Ceremony
Old Capitol Museum7:30 Awards Dinner**
Old Capitol Inn

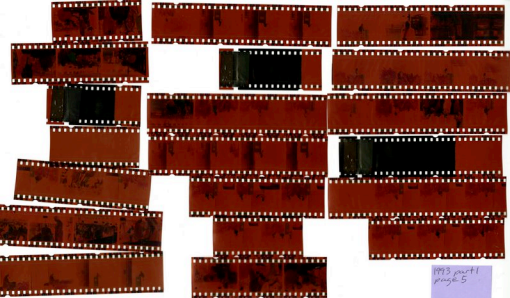
For additional information, please contact
MHC at 601-982-6752, write MHC, 3825
Ridgewood Road, Jackson 39211, or email
barbara@nhc.state.ms.us.

** All MHC programs are free and open to
the public. Cost of the meal is \$25. Persons
who do not choose to eat are welcome, and
seating will be available.

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Message from MHC Chair
Humanities Awards
Mississippi Chautauqua: A Perspective and Retrospective
The MHC 1997-98 Calendar Update
Are We Virtuous Citizens
Taulbert and Preshaw Featured Celebration Speakers
Exhibits and Film Festival
Carlton Joins MHC
An Oral History of the Mississippi Humanities Council

Page 2.
Page 2.
Page 3.
Page 4.
Page 6.
Page 6.
Page 6.
Page 6.
Page 6.
Page 7.



1993 part 1
page 5



The Fourth Annual

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

presents

The Three R's:

Readin', 'Ritin', and the River



Saluting the influence of Of' Man River
on the literature, history, and culture of
Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 1-5, 1993

Sponsored by
CAPLAN LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
and
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S
Natchez National Historical Park and
THE Natchez Trace Parkway

2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 3



Mr. Thomas Woodall

Lecture

Mr. Thomas Woodall is a historian with the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, at the Vicksburg National Military Park in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He has written several books and numerous magazine articles and four pamphlets.

"The Mississippi River and the Civil War"

Control of the Mississippi River was vital to the economic and military success of both the North and the South during the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln considered it the "key to victory" and gathered in hard-earned land and naval forces to achieve control of the important waterway. Union strategy sought to regain control of the lower Mississippi River Valley, thus split the South in two, achieve a major objective of the Anaconda Plan, and effectively isolate them of Richmond.

From Cairo, Illinois, south to the Gulf of Mexico, Union and Confederate land and naval forces struggled for control of the Mississippi River. By late summer of 1862, only Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Port Hudson, Louisiana, posed major obstacles to Union domination of the river. With the capture of these two ports in July 1863, the South is established control of the river. A famous President Lincoln declared, "The Father of Waters again goes untroubled to the sea."

Historians agree in recognizing Mr. Woodall's role in this history. A high-ranking Vice at the Smithsonian, 1980, he Central's Role, 1974, the South of New Orleans, 1982, president Cleveland House in Southern Top Gunline River, 1983, New Orleans, A Southern Perspective, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 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The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River

Presentations are in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 207 Jefferson Street, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, June 2, 1993

- 1:00 p.m.** Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Billy E. Thomas, President
Capitol Area Community College
- 1:15 p.m.** "The Heritage of the Mississippi River"
Mr. John Hontela
Leader, Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Denver, Colorado
- 2:15 p.m.** Refreshments
- 2:45 p.m.** "Journals, Manuscripts, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1719-1731"
Dr. William S. Coker
Professor of History Emeritus
University of West Florida
Pensacola, Florida
- 5:00 p.m.** "Return to the River"
Presented by a Mississippi Educational Television Documentary with Comments by
Mr. A. J. Rogers, Director
Mississippi Educational Television
Jackson, Mississippi
- 6:45 p.m.** Gala Reception (Honoring ETV Dignitaries at Historic Stanton Hall (55 Ticket Needed)
- 8:00 p.m.** Dinner: Cottage House Restaurant at Stanton Hall with Concert by the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir (50 Ticket Needed)

Thursday, June 3, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Poetry, and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi"
Dr. Charles Lowery
Chairman, Department of History
Mississippi State University
Spartanburg, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River"
Dr. Robert V. Ransil
Professor of History and
Research Professor of Humanities
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

- 11:15 a.m.** "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Town of Natchez"
Dr. David G. Searing, Professor of History
The University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi
- 12:30 p.m.** Luncheon: The Natchez Ends Hunt with Musical Selections by "The Black River"
(50 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The Mississippi River and the Civil War"
Mr. Terrence Winesler, Historian
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Vicksburg National Military Park
Vicksburg, Mississippi
- 3:00 p.m.** Refreshments
- 3:15 p.m.** "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Mark Twain
With Discussion Led by
Dr. Charles G. Vothkamp
Professor of American Film Studies
Cowan College
Davenport, Kentucky
- 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Reception, the Ramsdale Hitting Inn
Overlooking the Mississippi River
Honoring Outstanding Humanities Scholars from
Mississippi's Public Two-Year Colleges
With Music by the River Road Revue
(50 Ticket Needed)

Friday, June 4, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "The Mississippi River and Unsettled Lands: Water, Boats, and Scurvy"
Dr. Thomas R. Gandy, Author and Historian
Natchez, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Was Mark Twain's Mark Twain and African-American Writers"
Dr. Shelley Fisher Philkin, Visiting Fellow
Cambridge University
Cambridge, England
- 11:00 a.m.** "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invention"
Mr. Milroy Jaeger Knight III
Associate Professor of English
Tomball College
Tomball, Mississippi
- 12:15 p.m.** Victorian Luncheon, Historic Magnolia Hall
(110 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The River in My Life"
Mr. Willie Morris, Author
Jackson, Mississippi

- 3:00 p.m.** Popcorn and Soft Drinks
- 3:15 p.m.** "Good-Of' Boys: A Movie Filmed in Natchez Based on Mr. Willie Morris' Book with Discussion Led by Dr. Vothkamp
- 7:00-8:00 p.m.** "The Music of the Mississippi"
A Concert of River-Inspired Selections by the Mississippi Symphony Solo Orchestra
(50 Ticket Needed)

Saturday, June 5, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart"
Dr. Peggy W. Pringle, Professor of English
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 9:15 a.m.** "Tut Caldwell: A Reading with Commentary"
Mrs. Elizabeth Spencer, Writer-in-Residence
The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 10:00 a.m.** Breakfasting Party Honoring All Speakers
- 10:45 a.m.** "Of Men and Rivers"
Mr. Ernest Gaines, Writer-in-Residence
The University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, Louisiana
- 1:00 p.m.** "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Mr. Ernest Gaines
With Discussion Led by Dr. Vothkamp
- 4:00-6:00 p.m.** Tour of Historic Homes near the River:
Roush, The Fenwick, The William Johnson House, and Evans-Bentons, with Refreshments
(10 Ticket Needed)
- 7:00 p.m.** "Storytelling Along the River Road"
Dr. William Ferris, Director
The Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi, Oxford
and
Mr. Jerry Clarence, Historian and Author
Liberty, Mississippi
(50 Ticket Needed)
- 8:15 p.m.** "Open House on the River Road"
Reception at the Historic Mansion Choctaw
Honoring All Speakers
(50 Ticket Needed)

Sunday, June 6, 1993

- 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.** Writing Workshops with Lunches, Sponsored by Mississippi Writers Association, The Bear Western River Park Hotel
Presenting Mr. W.D. Campbell, Dr. Arthur Guyton, Mr. Rebecca Hood-Adams, Dr. Anne Landin, and Mr. JoAnne Pritchard
(10 Ticket Needed)

Ticket Reservation Form

Please indicate the events and number of tickets you desire.

	Number of Tickets	Total Cost
I. LECTURES AND GENERAL ADMISSION EVENTS		
Package includes events A,B,C,D,E		\$120.00
Or		
Select specific events below:		
A. June 2 lectures and ETV program		\$15.00
B. June 2 lectures and movie		\$15.00
C. June 3 lectures and movie		\$15.00
D. June 3 lectures, breakfasting, movie		\$15.00

II. RECEPTIONS, CONCERT, TOUR, PRESENTATIONS

Package includes events F, G, H, I, J \$50.00

Or		
Select specific events below:		
E. June 2 reception		\$15.00
F. June 3 reception		\$15.00
G. June 4 concert		\$15.00
H. June 4 four-hour tour		\$15.00
I. June 5 Poetry/Culture presentations		\$15.00
J. June 5 reception		\$15.00

III. LIMITED ADMISSION EVENTS

Package includes events K, L, M, N \$10.00

Or		
Select specific events below:		
K. June 5 dinner		\$10.00
L. June 5 luncheon		\$10.00
M. June 5 luncheon		\$10.00
N. June 6 writing workshops/presentations		\$10.00

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \$

Please check payment method:

☐ Personal check (Make payable to NATCHEZ-303 OFFICE.)

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa (For credit card purchases, complete form below.)

Credit card account number:

Expiration date:

Today's date:

Authorized signers:

(Please see back side of form.)

THE NATCHEZ
LITERARY
CELEBRATION

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

June 2-6, 1993

presented by

The Three R's:

Readin'
'Ritin'
and the
River



1993 part 1
page 7

People

Archives department joins literary celebration sponsors

Special to The Democrat

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History will join Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service to produce the fifth annual Natchez Literary Celebration in June 1994, said celebration co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith of Natchez.

"Co-Lin began the conference in June 1990, with more than 1,000 people attending all or part of the event," she said.

"Since 1991, we've had the tremendous support of the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway. Growth has continued each year, with the June 1993 celebration attracting more than 2,500 people.

"We are simply delighted to have Archives and History join us," Smith said. "We welcome and need the department's leadership and support. We know the staff's expertise will make the celebration better than ever."

Joining Smith as co-chairmen for the 1994 conference will be Gerald Gaumer, chief of interpretation and visitor services for the Natchez National Historical Park, and James F. Barnett Jr., director of MDAH's Division of Historic Properties in Natchez.

Barnett oversees the management of the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Historic Jefferson College.

"We are very pleased to be a co-sponsor of the Literary Celebration," Barnett said. "We look forward to working with Co-Lin and the National Park Service on the 1994 event."

"The Natchez Literary Celebration fits in exactly with the educational purpose of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History," Barnett said. "In fact, the department has been involved with all four previous celebrations in



LITERARY DONATION: International Paper's John Givens, human resources manager at the Natchez mill, presents a \$1,150 check to Carolyn Vance Smith, Becky Nevill and Gerry Gaumer. The donation helped fund the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, which was co-chaired by the three grant recipients. The donation was made possible through an International Paper Foundation grant.

various ways."

The president of the department's board of trustees, former governor William Winter, has been director of proceedings each year. Also, both the Grand Village and Historic Jefferson College have participated.

"In 1994, we're planning to include Historic Jefferson College once again, but in a different way," Barnett said. "It will be an important stop on a 'literary landmark' tour, which will take place June 4. We'll point out the many literary personalities associated with the school's history, including Joseph Hold Ingraham, B.L.C. Wailes and Jefferson Davis."

The 1994 celebration is set for June 2-4, Smith said. The theme will be "Mississippi's Literary Heritage: Black and White and Read All Over."

Emphasis will be on noted regional African-Americans and whites throughout the past two cen-

turies, particularly Natchez's own Richard Wright and such legendary Mississippi figures as William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, Aaron Burr, Ingraham, Andrew Marshchalk and Jefferson Davis.

Among a dozen internationally known lecturers will be Dr. Robert V. Remini of The University of Illinois at Chicago, whose topic will be "Aaron Burr and the Great Mississippi Conspiracy."

"Dr. Remini has spoken at three of the past four celebrations," Smith said. "He is enormously popular."

Also on tap will be a tour of Natchez sites associated with writers, including Historic Jefferson College; a play about Ibrahima, an African prince who was a slave in 18th-century Natchez; and a book-and-food extravaganza.

Information about the celebration is available through the Natchez Box Office or by writing P.O. Box 894, Natchez, 39121.

1993 part 1
page 8

1993 part 1
page 9

Celebration gets high marks

It is difficult to imagine a more effective use of National Endowment for the Humanities grant funds anywhere in the nation than that by the Mississippi Humanities Council to assist in the funding of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration held in Natchez June 1-6.

Prompting such a bold statement are various types of audiences on which the celebration has an impact as well as the total number of persons who attended all or part of the celebration.

Beneficiaries of this grant range from elementary school students to retirees, from world-class academic humanists to family historians, from public school teachers to college and university instructors, and from public historians to genealogists.

It would be difficult to design a program for the general public that was any stronger in humanities content and that was so cost effective. For instance, Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, who in the past year has lectured in numerous American and European cities, commented to me that she had never lectured to an audience as large as the one at her Natchez Literary Celebration session.

At least 2,000 people registered for part or all of the conference, and 1,500 attended the Bill Ferris-Jerry Clower session. These figures represent a conservative calculation.

A quarter-century of participation in state, regional and national meetings qualifies me to



Top of the Morning

JOHN D.W. GUICE
Hattiesburg resident

observe that it is highly unusual for such a lengthy academic conference as the Natchez Literary Celebration to consistently sustain such large audiences.

This success is partially explained by the simultaneous scheduling of an Elderhostel event in Natchez. In this regard, Natchez Literary Celebration leaders deserve credit for bringing such a strong humanities program to Elderhostel.

Nevertheless, this writer never ceases to be astounded by the interest of residents of the Natchez region in cultural events such as the celebration.

Clearly, planners of the celebration judiciously spread the strengths of their program over four days. Consequently each day's performers drew their own particular crowd.

In other words, while there was a large core of signposts who attended most events, on a given day other people appeared to be attracted

by a particular speaker. So, for many reasons, the Natchez Literary Celebration was extremely cost effective.

A truly unique feature of the celebration is the willingness of former Mississippi Gov. William Winter to serve as director of proceedings. He does so in a manner that is as gracious as it is effective.

Carolyn Vance Smith and Becky Jankin Nevill of Copiah-Lincoln Community College and Gerald Ganner of the Natchez National Historical Park co-chaired this year's celebration. The tremendous success of the event stands as testimony of their leadership. Another testimony of the quality of their work is the handsome, painstakingly prepared 32-page program booklet.

I close with the reiteration of my introduction.

May I heartily suggest again that it is impossible to imagine not only a more cost effective use of National Endowment for the Humanities and Mississippi Humanities Commission funds, but an expenditure that could be more faithful to the commission's mission in terms of program content and intended audience.

■ Dr. John D.W. Guice, official evaluator of the Natchez Literary Celebration for the Mississippi Humanities Council, is professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River

Presentations are in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 207 Jefferson Street, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, June 2, 1993

- 1:00 p.m.** Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Billy B. Thames, President
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
- 1:15 p.m.** "The Heritage of the Mississippi River"
Mr. John Hootzerry
Leader, Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Denver, Colorado
- 2:15 p.m.** Refreshments
- 2:45 p.m.** "Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763"
Dr. William S. Coker
Professor of History Emeritus
University of West Florida
Pensacola, Florida
- 5:30 p.m.** "Return to the River"
Premiere of a Mississippi Educational Television Documentary with Comments by
Mr. A. J. Jaeger, Director
Mississippi Educational Television
Jackson, Mississippi
- 6:45 p.m.** Gala Reception Honoring ETV Dignitaries at Historic Stanton Hall (\$5 Ticket Needed)
- 8:00 p.m.** Dinner, Carriage House Restaurant at Stanton Hall with Concert by the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir (\$15 Ticket Needed)

Thursday, June 3, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "Language Without Inhibition: Hypothesis, Fantasy, and Trail Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi"
Dr. Charles Folsom
Chairman, Department of History
Mississippi State University
Starkville, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River"
Dr. Robert V. Remini
Professor of History and
Research Professor of Humanities
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

- 11:15 a.m.** "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez"
Dr. David G. Searing, Professor of History
The University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi
- 12:30 p.m.** Luncheon, The Natchez Eliza Hotel
with Musical Selections by "The Black Swan"
(\$10 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The Mississippi River and the Civil War"
Mr. Tomerl Wimsler, Historian
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Vicksburg National Military Park
Vicksburg, Mississippi
- 3:00 p.m.** Refreshments
- 3:15 p.m.** "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Mark Twain
With Discussion Led by
Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp
Professor of American Film Studies
Centre College
Danville, Kentucky
- 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Reception, the Ramada Hilltop Inn
Overlooking the Mississippi River
Honoring Outstanding Humanities Scholars from
Mississippi's Public Two-Year Colleges
With Music by the River Road Revue
(\$5 Ticket Needed)

Friday, June 4, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mail, Water, Boots, and Steam"
Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, Author and Historian
Natchez, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices"
Dr. Shelley Fisher Philkin, Visiting Fellow
Cambridge University
Cambridge, England
- 11:00 a.m.** "The Resonance of Poetry and the River's Invitation"
Mr. Hilary Jaques Knight III
Associate Professor of English
Tougaloo College
Tougaloo, Mississippi
- 12:15 p.m.** Vespertine Luncheon, Historic Magnolia Hall
(\$10 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The Rivers in My Life"
Mr. Willie Morris, Author
Jackson, Mississippi
- 3:00 p.m.** Popcorn and Soft Drinks
- 3:15 p.m.** "Good Ol' Bay," A Movie Filmed in Natchez
Based on Mr. Willie Morris' Book
With Discussion Led by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 7:00-8:00 p.m.** "The Music of the Mississippi"
A Concert of River-draped Selections by
the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra
(\$5 Ticket Needed)
- 8:30 a.m.** "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart"
Dr. Peggy W. Peadar, Professor of English
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 9:15 a.m.** "Fort Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary"
Ms. Elizabeth Spencer, Writer-in-Residence
The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 10:00 a.m.** Booksigning Party Honoring All Speakers
- 10:45 a.m.** "Of Men and Rivers"
Mr. Ernest Gaines, Writer-in-Residence
The University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, Louisiana
- 1:00 p.m.** "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Mr. Ernest Gaines
with Discussion Led by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 4:00-6:00 p.m.** Tour of Historic Houses near the River:
Rosedale, The Paragonas, The William Johnson House, and Evans-Harrison, with Refreshments
(\$15 Ticket Needed)
- 7:00 p.m.** "Storytelling Along the River Road"
Dr. William Ferris, Director
The Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi, Oxford
and
Mr. Jerry Clower, Humorist and Author
Liberty, Mississippi
(\$7.50 Ticket Needed)
- 8:15 p.m.** "Open House on the River Road"
Reception at the Historic Mansion Chateau
Honoring All Speakers
(\$2.50 Ticket Needed)

Sunday, June 6, 1993

- 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.** Writing Workshops with Luncheon,
Sponsored by Mississippi Writers Association,
The Best Western River Park Hotel
Featuring Mr. Will D. Campbell, Dr. Arthur
Guyton, Ms. Rebecca Hood-Adams,
Dr. Anne Lundin, and Ms. JoAnne Pritchard
(\$15 Ticket Needed)

1993 part 1
page 10